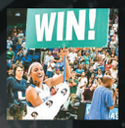


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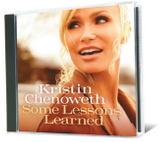
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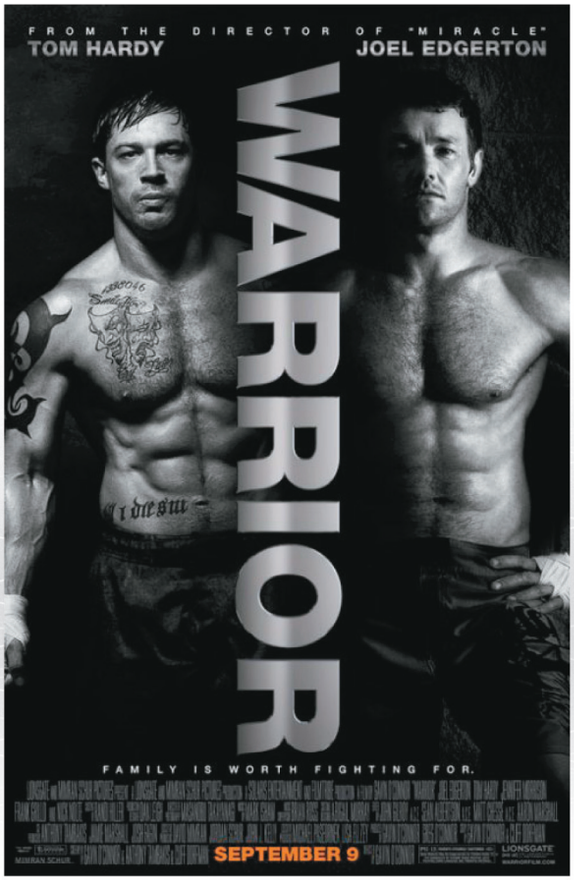
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BACK TO SCHOOL

A TRIO of lovely ladies spoke with me at the meet-up at the State Fair the other day. The meet-up was informal, the 5th Annual Gay Day was unofficial, the people were real. As always. Quite seriously, they talked to me about how they thought that other T-girls might be afraid to come out in public to a large event such as the Fair. No doubt, they would be greatly outnumbered. But, Susanna, Brenda, and Tracy eagerly disagreed with that conclusion–there was nothing to fear coming all dressed up to the Fair. They do it all the time, dressed as any women would dress who are going to the Great Minnesota Get Together (better than most, in my opinion).

I opined with them over how I wondered if it is really safe and, if it is, do we just not know it, yet. Are we waiting for an all-clear signal? Proof? Perhaps. Or, is it generational?

My theory is that it is generational.

"It" being defined as being able to express whatever gender identity someone chooses to express. Of course, "choose" could be a problematic term, too, as choice may not be part of the equation.

I told them about the incredible young people I met while putting together this issue: the campers at the GLBT church camp "The Naming Project" and the older students involved in our fashion photo shoot later in these pages. With grace and humor, the campers were your usual squirrelly high-schoolers...but with a more evolved sense of self than most high-schoolers I'd encountered. They had language with which they could define themselves, if they wanted to, or they could decide to leave themselves undefined. But, somewhere along the way, they'd been given the gift of that language. We didn't have it yet in college back in 1995, I know that. When they were given it, I don't yet know. In one of the multiple poignant interviews that I taped (that can be seen online), one of the students introduced himself: "My name is Caleb...I am a heterosexual transgender male and I am also a Christian. Um...I guess the big thing I'd want to say would be that just because I haven't had the surgery does not mean that I'm not a man and I am not a human being."

He broke my heart. There might be language, but there is still a hard reality despite the beauty of the language.

We held the photo shoot for the fashion portion of this issue at Macalester College, my alma mater and one of the gayest/gay-friendly colleges in the United States. When I sent out my requests for student models, I specifically asked each for an "Identified Gender" and wanted them to fill in the answers themselves rather than give them options from which to choose. Not surprisingly, one of them returned the questionnaire with "genderqueer." As I recounted this experience to the ladies at the Fair, I told Susanna, Brenda, and Tracy that it all seemed so normal to the students.



Photo by Sophia Hantzes

Normal. How do we define normal? Perhaps the definition I'm looking for is one that's claimed by the people—rather than assigned to the people. In their state of being normal, there seemed to be an ease to them. When one of the students replied that she dresses in men's clothing, I asked, "Would you like to get outfitted for a swank suit at Heimie's?" She enthusiastically replied that she would. She didn't skip a beat. I don't know how Nichole felt when going to the Haberdashery and getting sized for her clothes, but she donned them for the photo shoot and everything appeared to be done with ease.

Maybe she wouldn't have batted a mascara-less eyelash at joining us at the State Fair, either. Plenty of the students would've been there with Susanna, Brenda, and Tracy—and the other fine folks in their Gay Day glory—in a heartbeat in all their genderqueer ease. Their apparent fearlessness. Their comfort. Their normalcy.

It would have been wonderful for them to meet their predecessors—all of the folks at the Fair who were wearing red for Gay Day. The people who, largely, enabled the community to have a shift in language simply by existing…or fighting…or demonstrating on college campuses like Macalester.

And, I think that Susanna, Brenda, and Tracy would've been so proud of them and their fearlessness. Just like I am.

With thanks,

Andy □

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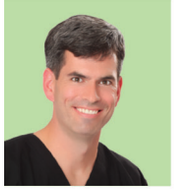


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The Canary is Turning Blue!

IT'S TRUE that gay marriage is not the number one problem facing the country today – plummeting stock markets, joblessness, and widening chasms between rich and poor are all threats to citizens, straight or gay.

What most of these victims of joblessness and high taxes have in common is that they are all considered valid citizens with the same civil rights. Unless they're GLBT. For them, civil rights aren't equal–or existent. Maintaining this inequality is a high priority for two of 2012's presidential candidates, Texas Governor Rick Perry and our own Michele Bachmann.

An August 4 dialogue between *Meet the Press* moderator David Gregory and Bachmann:

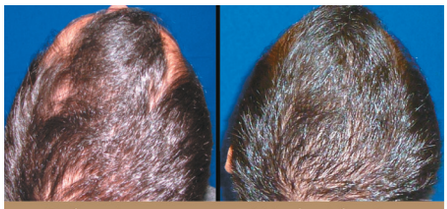
> GREGORY: Can a gay couple who adopt children, in your mind, be considered a "family?"
>
> BACHMANN: When it comes to marriage, and family, my opinion is that marriage is between a man and a woman. And I think that's been my view —
>
> GREGORY: So a gay couple with kids would not be considered a "family" to you?
>
> BACHMANN: You know, all of these kind (sic) of questions really aren't about what people are concerned about right now.

Not all people, certainly, but that 5-10% of the population whose families have just been nullified by a presidential contender need to sit up and take notice.

There is, of course, no same sex marriage in Texas, but in 2009, Perry did inadvertently sign legislation allowing transgender couples to tie the knot. He is working vigorously to have that law removed and to become a candidate who will not only not give equal rights to GLBT individuals, but who intends to rescind those already given. Should he be successful, two years of legitimate transgender weddings will be annulled.

Something in both Perry's and Bachmann's performances remind me of photographs I've seen recently of Anders Behring Brevik. The Norwegian mass killer's blue eyes are untroubled, his smooth face seamless, wrapped in impervious self-righteousness. He may be insane, but he is also the epitome of all ideologues: My vision is the Truth and may be implemented at any cost. God's special endorsement allows the chosen to define marriage or family and to render null and void any outsiders.

Thus the issue of gay marriage and gay families has a wider application–a canary in the mine that lets us know the air is clean and our thinking clear. Keep your eye on the bird in 2012. □


Before Laser 7 Weeks After Laser

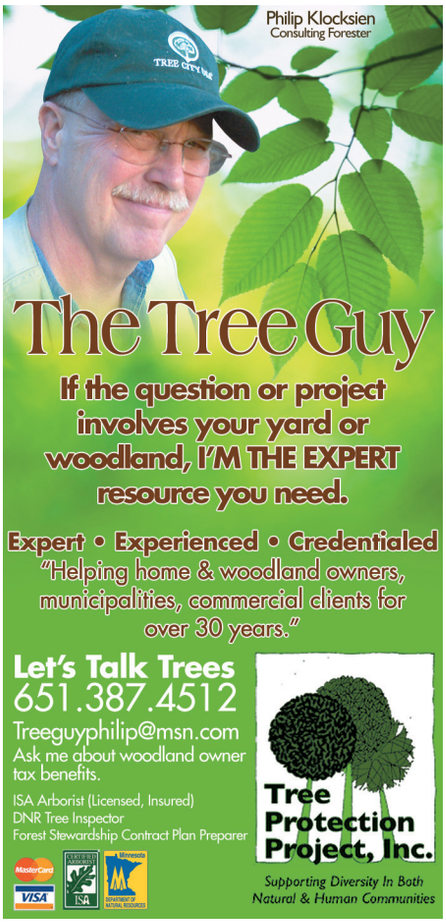
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Photo by Stephen Rocheford

Congratulations to Paul Mittelstadt for winning First Place in the 5K run at the North American Out Games! Held on Friday, July 29, the event was at the track field at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. Mittelstadt, the only Minnesotan in his event, competed in the 55-60 age category and came in with a time of 25 minutes, 16 seconds (7.36 miles per hour).



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SUMMER CAMP. Youthful memories of a time of life when things were figured out between trips to the ballpark or mall. Life was sort of complicated in the way that only teenagers can complicate things. Camp was when those complications were concentrated and compacted into a time and place away from home; away from the usual rhythm of life. It was a brief stint of heaven or hell, depending upon who ended up in the lower bunk. Was reality suspended or was it a microcosm of the larger world? Homesickness. Puppy love. Learning to kayak. Swimming past the buoy. Generic peanut butter. Outhouses. Woven potholders in wacky colors. Capture the Flag. Campfires. Bugspray. Permanently damp swimsuits. Tie-dyed t-shirts.

Shame. Condemnation. Fear. Confusion.

How would camp have been different had it been geared toward GLBT and Allied youth? Some might say that it couldn't have existed. Summer camp was church camp…and no such topic of sexual orientation would be allowed or addressed. If not church-based, summer camp was just summer camp and nobody talked about such things. Or, they did. But, they did so in secret.

That was then. 15 years ago or 50 years ago, the time of silencing the identity and discovery of young people is over. The long, painful history of denying sexual orientation and identity as part of the discourse in faith communities has passed.

Now, there is The Naming Project. One of a handful of camps in North America for gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans-identified, allied, and questioning youth, The Naming Project organization started its formation in 2002 as an answer to the question, was there a place where a gay youth could go to discuss sexuality as well as spirituality?

It was a simple—but revolutionary—question. No, there was not.

Since then, the founders of The Naming Project—Jay Wiesner, Ross Murray, and Brad Froslee—have built a multi-faceted organization with programming to help GLBTA youth learn, grow, and share their experiences. It includes outings to worship and fellowship experiences; resources for youth and parents; workshops and conversations for youth in schools, communities, and churches; workshops for youth workers, parents, and congregations; and, as seen here, a five-day summer



camp for youth at Bay Lake Camp near Garrison, Minnesota.

The camp is on an island. Metaphorical or literal, the shift in reality is palpable.

What is found on the island is unconditional acceptance. There is enlightenment. Something is known there that has yet to be fully articulated elsewhere:

Whether gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans-identifying, an ally, or questioning, you have been created and named as "a beloved child of God."

Again, revolutionary. To come from a society where GLBT individuals are called names throughout their lives, it was an imperative of The Naming Project that the youth know that in being created, baptized, and called they are given another name, "Child of God."

Though on an island, the work of The Naming Project is not relegated to its boundaries. The youth leave Bay Lake with a charge to see how they fit into society and figure out what they can do to make it better which, by simply existing, they already do. □

The Naming Project has been featured on *Our America with Lisa Ling* and in the documentary *Camp Out*. Please visit *www.lavendermagazine.com* to read more about The Naming Project, see photos of the campers and counselors, and meet some of the campers in the video, *Called As We Are*.

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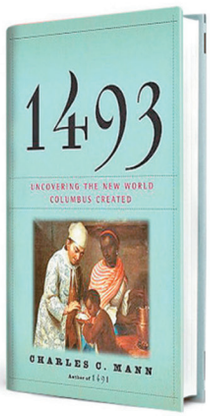
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DOCTOR WHO: SERIES SIX, PART ONE [BLU-RAY]

Amazon.com • $20.99

If personal identity politics and post-modern Marxist neo-imperialism has worked your last gay nerve, it's time to drop the books and pick up the clicker. Indulge your inner sci-fi geek with the a big brand-new chunk of Doctor Who deliciousness.



PEARSON'S MAPLE BUN BAR

PearsonsCandy.com

Whether you're between classes or pulling an all-nighter, a keen mind needs kindling to keep the nerd fires burning bright. You'd be forgiven for never having heard of a Pearson's Maple Bun Bar, but now you're on notice. The big chocolaty maple pile of peanut pleasure is the perfect pick-me-up snack. Sugar, caffeine, protein... What more could you need in a treat?



FLEET NATURALS CLEANSING ENEMA

Amazon.com • $6.69

Your mother may have told you to wash behind your ears, but your Auntie Wanda wants you to make sure every nook and cranny is clean as a whistle! Whether for business or pleasure, the soothing properties of an Aloe-cleansed undercarriage can't be underestimated. If you're not sure why you'd need one of these in your backpack in the first place, then you don't need one.



TOSHIBA THRIVE 16 GB ANDROID TABLET

Amazon.com • $419

Tablet computers are among the hottest gifts for gadget-minded students (and drag queens) this year and with more ports and possibilities than the iPad or most Android tablets, the Toshiba Thrive is a top contender. I've had mine for a few weeks and it's my new best digital friend.



WONDER WOMAN LUNCH BOX

Lunchboxes.com • $9.99

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JOIA:

GOURMET SODA FOR THE DISCERNING DRINKER

THERE'S A new soda sweeping the Cities' marketplace and leaving a wafting trail of citrusy herb scents in its wake. Joia All Natural Soda has only just hit the shelves and already it's causing a stir. From tastings around town to selling out on co-op shelves to setting up behind select bars (where the flavors play nicely with friends like gin and vodka), the Joia soda revolution has begun. The idea took shape as friends Bob Safford and Steven Walker were at Bradstreet Crafthouse with their respective partners, sampling some of the layered craft drinks that are so popular in upscale bars these days. They wondered why can't we have a soda like this?

Soon the idea more fully formed and picked up steam. Along with co-founder Carleton Johnson they brought on Dan Oskey, bartender at the Strip Club and a flavor nut. He's the sort of guy who spends his spare time formulating tonics, bitters, and ordering exotic flavored bark online.

Dan's approach to flavors is much like a chef cooks: build flavors and throw in a bit of the unexpected, just to see what happens: "If you don't make a drink that sucks every now and again, you aren't trying hard enough," he explained.

They initially came up with about 120 flavor syrups before whittling the flavors down, to eight. Next came a blind tasting with other craft sodas like Izze's and Stewart's. The tasters liked the Joia sodas–they liked them *a lot*. They looked at each other and realized, Wow, we can really do this. They launched early this summer and haven't slowed yet. Johnson, Safford. and Walker know a thing or three about marketing and utilizing social media. "It's been a run-away product, mostly due to the networking we've been able to do," observed Walker. Word of the new venture has circulated on local blogs, in the media, and on Twitter. It's remarkable the idea hasn't taken off before, who hasn't had at least one experience of going out with friends and eschewing alcohol, only to realize that your options are limited to a dignity-suffering Shirley Temple or a stuffy cup of coffee?

The flavors are refreshingly complex. The Grapefruit, Chamomile & Cardamom is pleasantly tart (without the lock-jaw effect some grapefruit-flavored beverages induce) in its honey-tinged wisp of sweetness accented by floral cardamom notes. The Pineapple, Coconut & Nutmeg variety is toes-in-tropical-sand soothing and zingy without a hint of Hawaiian Tropic. The Lime, Hibiscus & Clove is so friendly and balanced that it ought to be ubiquitous on every fridge door.



Entirely local and all natural, Joia has no added caffeine or preservatives, less sugar than most other sodas, and the flavors are an unexpected dose of sophistication to swig out of a glass bottle. If you'd rather your drinks a little boozy, these are easily doctored. The Joia Life website has an entire section devoted to drinks that you can mix up, easily searched by booze of choice. Or follow them on Facebook or Twitter to find their next sample site. □

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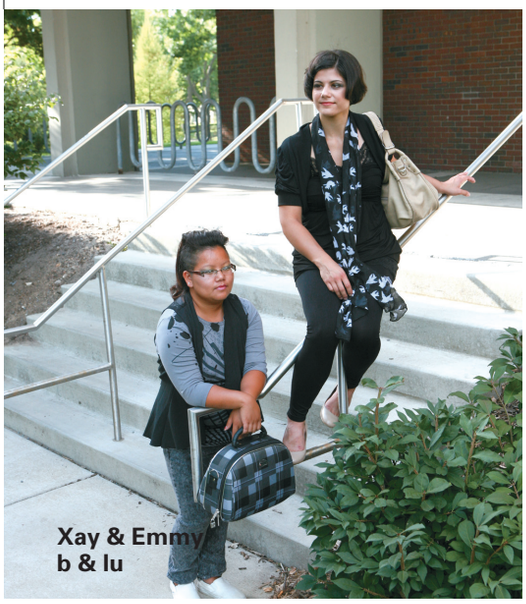
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LAVENDER'S BACK TO SCHOOL FASHION & SURVIVAL GUIDE

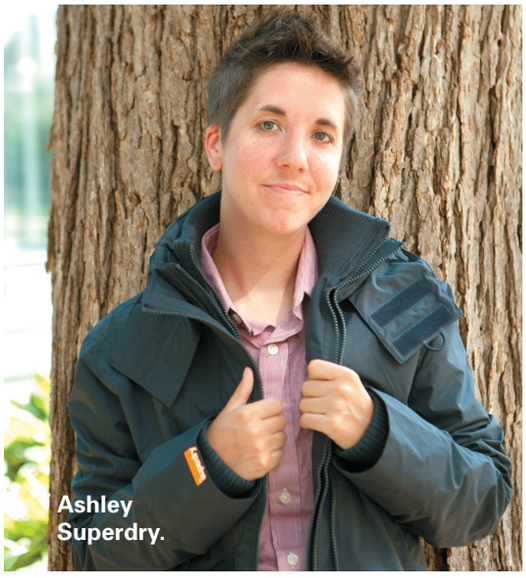
by 17 Students and Staff from 7 Educational Institutions Wearing Fashions from 6 Clothiers on 1 Campus for 4 Hours

SURVIVAL GUIDE: Ask questions. People want to give you answers. They want to teach you things. So just ask things. Don't be afraid. You will find out so much quicker and easier and you will feel so much better for it.[1] Make sure that you can balance life, play, and work because you can go crazy. Be sure you have time for yourself. Go out and enjoy what the Twin Cities have to offer. [2] Find your advocates. Get a bike. Reach out and meet as many people as you can. Find people that love you and have a great time.[3] Do lots of yoga. Eat some vegetables. Try not to eat too much junk because the brain needs to be working. Sleep. Don't procrastinate–it's never good for you.[4] Get to know people, have fun at school, and don't be afraid to say "Hi." [5] Hit up a ton of coffee shops. Branch out, campus is a bubble and getting lost in that bubble is something that happens a lot, so getting off campus is the best thing you can do.[6] Know who you are and know what you need. Find out where you can get what you need if you don't know already.[7] School can be tough, people can get burned out. Supporting one another, making that phone call or studying together...take time out of the day to put your homework down to go be in nature and just do what you've gotta do to get past that hump to keep going in school.[8] Get connected and know your resources. Know who is supportive and where you can go that will be safe for you if you need a safe space or to talk about any issues you're having at the time. Take risks, get out of your comfort zone, and meet new people. That's how you grow.[9]

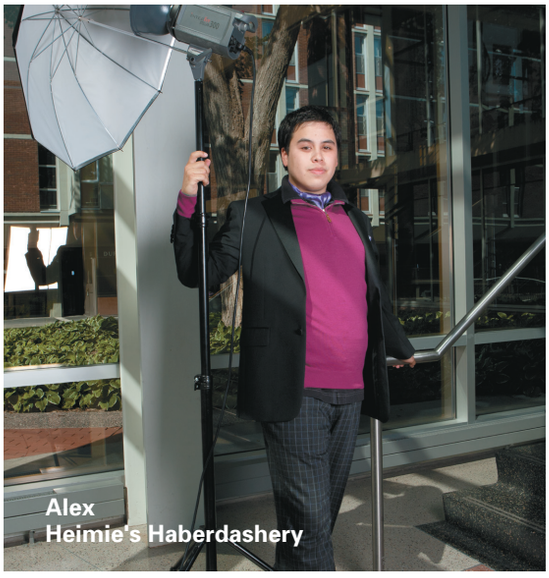

Xay & Emmy
b & lu


Javier
MartinPatrick^3

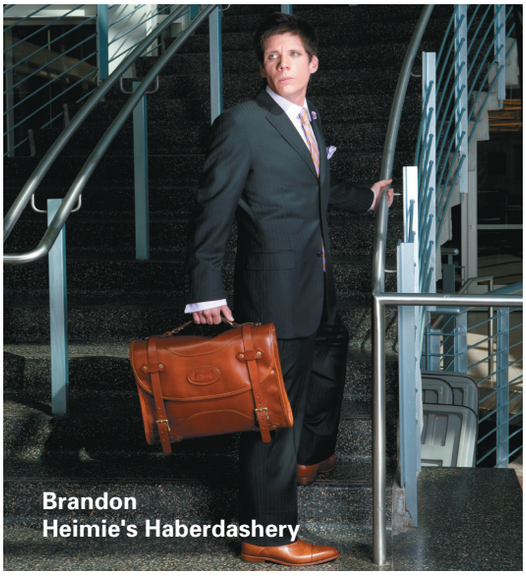

Nichola
Heimie's Haberdashery


Ashley
Superdry.


Helena
Superdry.

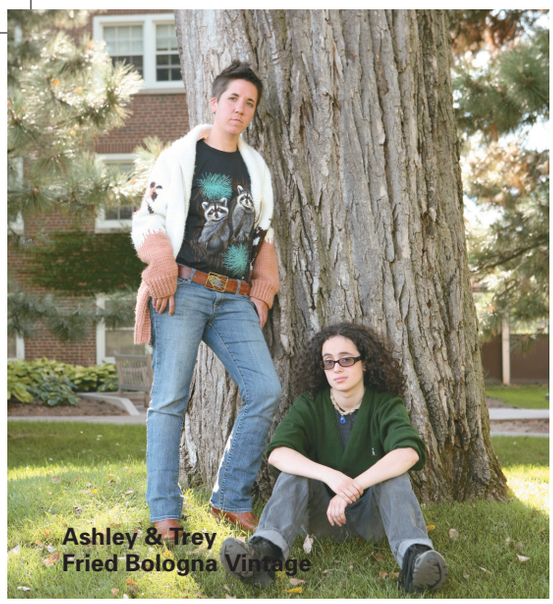

Alex
Heimie's Haberdashery


Lean
Fried Bologna Vintage


Brandon
Heimie's Haberdashery


Katie
b & lu

"Education is an admirable thing, but it is well to remember from time to time that nothing worth knowing can be taught." -Oscar Wilde


Ashley & Trey
Fried Bologna Vintage


James & Helena
MartinPatrick[3]


Rebecca
Superdry



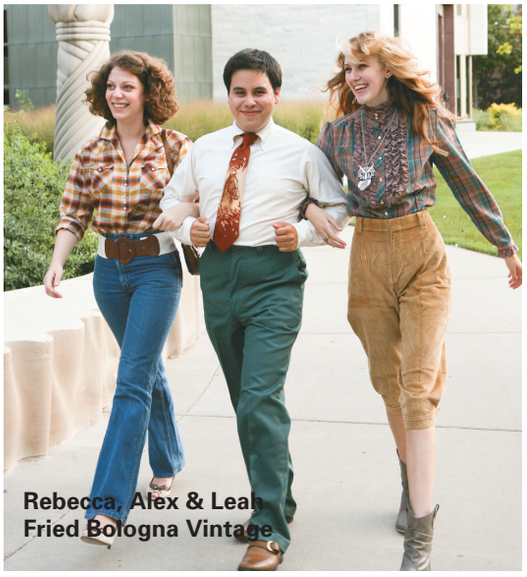

Samantha & Gabby
Fried Bologna Vintage




Nichole & Anna
Fried Bologna Vintage


Anna
Superdry


Javier
Heimie's Haberdashery


Rebecca, Alex & Leah
Fried Bologna Vintage

It's a lot more comfortable being queer in college than in high school because there are a lot more people like me and it's just a more comfortable environment, especially living in Minneapolis.[10]

BACK TO SCHOOL FASHION AND SURVIVAL GUIDE
Producer: Andy Lien
Photographer: Mike Hnida
Location: Macalester College, Barbara Laskin
Make-up Assistance: Samantha Herdman and Leah Barton

STORES:
Vincent Jenny III for **Heimie's Haberdashery**
St. Paul
www.heimies.com

Chris Scholl and Catrice O'Neal for **b & lu**
Hopkins
www.bandlu.com

Shannon Feider for **Superdry.**
Mall of America
www.superdry.com

Sam Fehrenbach for **MartinPatrick^3**
Minneapolis
www.martinpatrick3.com

Sara Kazee for **Fried Bologna Vintage**
Minneapolis
www.friedbolognavintage.com

Lillans of Hopkins
Hopkins
www.lilliansshoppes.com

Go to **LavenderMagazine.com** for an expanded version of the photo shoot, complete with apparel descriptions and prices.



Forward.

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Brandon, Alex, Javier, Janelle, Katie, Emmy, Xay & Nichole
Heimie's Haberdashery and b & lu



Brandon & Alex
MartinPatrick[3]



Gabby
Superdry



Janelle
Superdry

ENDNOTES: 1. James Kennedy, University of Minnesota; 2. Brandon Gil, WIlliam Mitchell College of Law; 3. Helena Osswald, University of Minnesota; 4. Samantha Herdman, Hamline University; 5. Leah Barton, Hamline University; 6. Janelle Taggart, St. Catherine University; 7. Katie Berger, Minneapolis Community and Technical College; 8. Ashley Brand, Minneapolis Community and Technical College; 9. Xay Yang, University of Minnesota; 10. Trey Casen Williams, Minneapolis Community and Technical College; 11. Emmy Kegler, Luther Seminary. Pictured but not quoted: Alex Yang, Macalester College; Rebecca Patton, Macalester College; Anna Ruhland, St. Catherine University; Nichole Kesgard, St. Catherine University; Gabby Landsverk, Hamline University; and Javier Gutierrez, Director of Residential Life, Hamline University.

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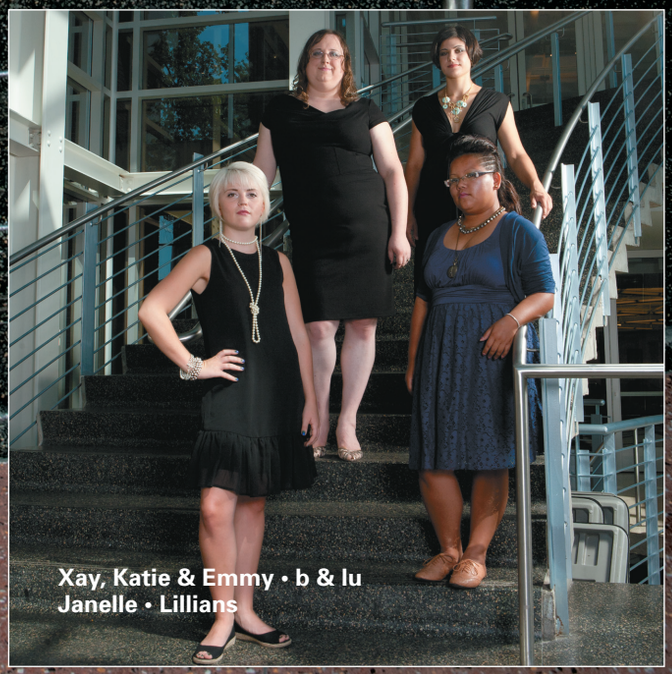
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Nurture yourself. There are so many circumstances that we get into that are not nurturing to us, we do things that are not good for us or interesting or fun...because we have to do them, we feel we have to do them, or others expect us to do them. As you come back to school to find the things that nurture you, that feed your spirit: alone time, time with close friends, big gatherings. Explore how you care for yourself and the emotions inside you.[11]

Xay, Katie & Emmy • b & lu
Janelle • Lillians



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Corporate Giving:
Employee Groups and Contribution Policy

	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEE GROUPS	NAME OF GLBT GROUP	WHO'S MAKING DECISIONS?	HOW MUCH MONEY?	CAN EMPLOYEE GROUPS DONATE TO A POLITICAL CANDIDATE OR PAC?
United Health Group	7	Diversity and Inclusion Council	Both	Depends: company matches employee group donations	No, but individuals can
Target	5	LGBTA Business Council	Collaborate: Target donates funds directly	Not disclosed	No
SUPERVALU	30+	PROUD	Corporate or SUPERVALU Foundation	Not disclosed	No
3M	9	People Like Us (PLUS)	3M or 3M Foundation	Not disclosed	No
CHS	0	N/A	CHS Corporate Citizenship area and CHS Foundation	N/A	N/A
U.S. Bancorp	N/A	Diversity and Inclusion Council	U.S. Bancorp Foundation	N/A	See explanation
General Mills	7	Betty's Family	General Mills Foundation	See explanation	No
Land O'Lakes	1	Diversity Enrichment Council	Land O'Lakes Foundation	N/A	Employees can donate to the organization of their choice

To create a more rounded view of corporate giving, *Lavender* asked the top Fortune 500 companies in Minnesota about their giving policies. Information has been complied into a graph as well as the following explanations.

UnitedHealth Group works to help people lead healthy lives, according to Kate Rubin, the President of the UnitedHealth Foundation. "Our community helps us select the places where we want to be engaged and really focused," Rubin said. A group within the company's Diversity and Inclusion Council, although not a formal GLBT group, helps UnitedHealth advance equality and decide which events and organizations are consistent with their goals to promote wellness locally, nationwide, and around the world. The company has contributed to Philanthrofund (PFund), the National GLBT Task Force, Twin Cities Human Rights Campaign, and more.

Target has five business councils (African American, Asian, LGBTA, Hispanic and Women's), which allow employees to give their perspective on business decisions in community engagement, according to Target spokesperson Molly Snyder. The business councils make recommendations to Target's Community Relations team, which ultimately settles on the donations that Target funds. Although the business councils do not make political donations, Target can give money for a political purpose. Target has contributed to Twin Cities Pride, and has sponsored the 2011 Red Ribbon Ride.

SUPERVALU, a grocery retailer, gives money through the corporation itself, as well as the SUPERVALU Foundation, in order to promote their three focus areas: hunger relief, nutrition, and environmental stewardship, according to SUPERVALU spokesperson Mike Siemienas. Associates are able to get their word in through over 30 Business Resource Groups, which collaborate with SUPERVALU to help foster an inclusive corporate environment. PROUD is the local GLBT group, one of four countrywide, which has worked with the Aliveness Project and has been involved in community activities such as food and clothing drives. Supervalu has been given the top rating of 100 percent on the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's annual Corporate Equality Index (which measures U.S. employers treatment of GLBT employees, consumers and investors) for the past four years.

3M, which was founded over a hundred years ago in Two Harbors, Minnesota, is a science-based company whose technology and products are distributed worldwide. In 2010, the 3M Foundation gave thousands of dollars in grants to United Way, Habitat for Humanity, theatres and the arts around the Twin Cities (such as the Penumbra Theatre, the Ordway, the Minnesota Orchestral Association and CLIMB Theatre just to name a few) and more. Employee groups can make recommendations to 3M corporate and the 3M Foundation to determine where the money goes, explained 3M spokesperson Jacqueline Berry.

CHS has a vision "to be a globally integrated energy, grains and foods system innovatively linking producers with consumers," according to their website. CHS, Inc. makes donations through their CHS Corporate Citizenship area and the CHS Foundation. Most of the community giving is made in hope of building "vibrant rural communities" and are, in general, "agricultural or cooperative in nature," according to Lani Jordan, CHS director of corporate communications. CHS has given funding to 4-H, FFA, and rural leadership development programs, Jordan mentioned.

U.S. Bancorp employees can make requests for political contributions, which are approved by the director of government relations. While corporate funds are not legally able to go towards certain federal or state elections, U.S. Bancorp can make contributions to ballot initiatives, according to U.S. Bancorp's Political Contribution Policy. U.S. Bancorp has an annual paid volunteer day and matches employee contributions to nonprofit organizations, according to U.S. Bancorp spokesperson Teri Charest. The corporation helps lead the United Way Arise Project, which supports GLBT community giving in the Twin Cities. U.S. Bancorp has sponsored Twin Cities Pride and the 2011 Pride Picnic.

General Mills and the General Mills Foundation give millions to communities nationwide. In 2011, $25 million of the $120 million total went to international grants focused on issues related to hunger and nutritional wellness, according to General Mills spokesperson Maerenn Jepson. Betty's Family, the company's employee network for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employees and their friends and allies, helps General Mills create a "safe, open and productive work environment for [GLBT] employees." Jepson stated that General Mills did not give money to any independent political expenditure committees in 2010 or 2011 and doesn't plan to do so.

Land O'Lakes does not have a group to represent GLBT employees exclusively, but has a Diversity Enrichment Council, which addresses all dimensions of diversity and promotes equality in the workplace. This council seems to serve GLBT employees well, as Land O'Lakes received a perfect score in the Corporate Equality Index in 2011, according to Land O'Lakes. Land O'Lakes has one employee group underway, called the Women's Leadership Network, but all giving is coordinated through the Land O'Lakes Foundation. Some Land O'Lakes employees have been involved in United Way's Arise Project, which aids homeless GLBT youth. In addition, Land O'Lakes was a corporate sponsor of the 11th Annual "Songs from the Heart" gala, which benefited the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus and Avenues for the Homeless Youth event. □



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Teacher Won't Apologize for Anti-Gay Facebook Post
WKMG reports that Florida high school teacher Jerry Buell has refused to apologize for Facebook comments about New York's recent decision to legalize same-sex marriage, saying it made him "sick." He also called gay marriage a "cesspool." Buell has been removed from the classroom temporarily pending an investigation by district officials.

NJ Bridal Store Refuses to Sell Lesbian a Dress
Reuters reports that Alix Genter was not allowed to buy a wedding dress after the manager of a Somers Point, New Jersey, bridal shop found out she was marrying another woman. The manager called her wedding an "illegal action" and refused to sell her a dress. There's no word whether Genter will sue the store, but New Jersey does bar discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in public accommodation.

Deportation Case Dropped Against Same-Sex Couple
The Huffington Post reports that the Obama Administration has ended deportation proceedings against a legally married gay couple following an announcement that the administration has shifted the focus of its immigration policy. US citizen Doug Gentry's Venezuelan-born husband of six-years, Alex Benshimol will not be deported.

Gay Birds as Faithful as Straight Pairs
The Telegraph reports that a new study of zebra finches shows that same-sex pairs sing to and preen one another as much as heterosexual pairs. Julie Elie from the University of California Berkeley said, "The research showed relationships in animals can be more complicated than just a male and a female who meet and reproduce, even in birds." The study appears in the journal Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology.

Christine O'Donnell Walks Out on 'Piers Morgan' Over Gay Marriage
Reuters reports that former Delaware U.S. Senate candidate Christine O'Donnell walked off the set during an interview with CNN's Piers Morgan in August after she was asked questions about gay marriage. O'Donnell was promoting her new book, Troublemaker. After Morgan asked questions about gay marriage, she accused him of being rude and, shortly thereafter, walked off the set.

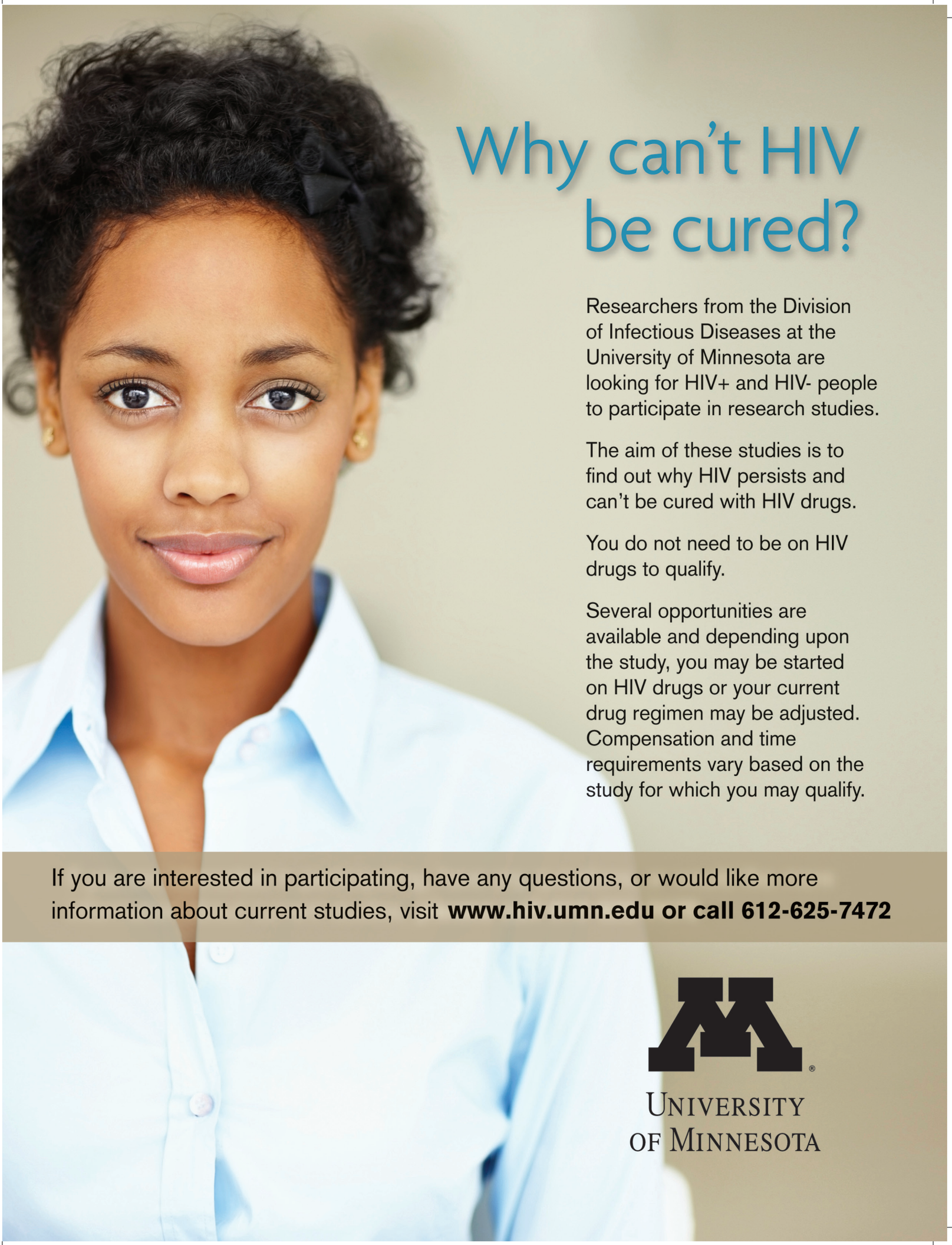
Soldier in Gay Officer Facebook Threat Avoids Jail
The Sydney Morning Herald reports that former Australian soldier Marcus Andrew Georgiou who set up an anti-gay Facebook page that threatened to cut a gay officer "into a hundred pieces" has been discharged into the care of his doctor for 18 months. That's in lieu of a prison sentence after it was learned that he was suffering from post-traumatic stress and paranoid schizophrenia while on duty.

UFC Champion Says He Won't Train with a Gay Fighter
USA Today reports that champion UFC fighter and trainer Rodrigo Nogueira said in a recent interview that he would not train with a gay student. "What if the gay person has that malice of having physical contact with me, of staying there grappling? I would have no problems having a gay student in my academy, but I would rather not train with him."









Why can't HIV be cured?

Researchers from the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of Minnesota are looking for HIV+ and HIV- people to participate in research studies.

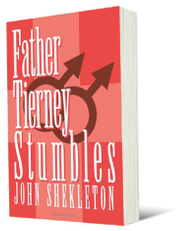
The aim of these studies is to find out why HIV persists and can't be cured with HIV drugs.

You do not need to be on HIV drugs to qualify.

Several opportunities are available and depending upon the study, you may be started on HIV drugs or your current drug regimen may be adjusted. Compensation and time requirements vary based on the study for which you may qualify.

If you are interested in participating, have any questions, or would like more information about current studies, visit **www.hiv.umn.edu or call 612-625-7472**

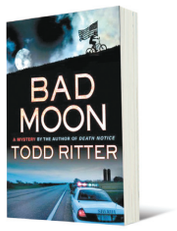
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



Father Tierney Stumbles

John Shekleton
iUniverse $16.95

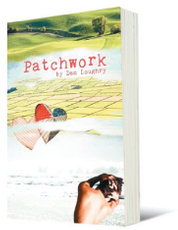
Father Joe Tierney, a deeply committed (and closeted) pastor of the parish of Mater Dei, learns he's HIV positive. Shekleton's tale is set in a big city in an unspecified time, though 2002–post-Boston's Cardinal Law's resignation and the Catholic clergy sex abuse scandal–still resonates. Tierney joins an anonymous group of HIV-positive clergy, regaining a modicum of peace, only to be found by a freelance writer intent upon writing a on local HIV-positive priests. Wracked with fear, guilt, and shame, Tierney must now decide how to confront not only to his own feelings, but the demands of his Bishop, his friends, and the growing media pressure. Father Tierney makes a difficult decision–and Shekleton promises his return.



Bad Moon

Todd Ritter
Minotaur Books $25.99

On July 29, 1969, 9-year-old Charlie Olmstead dashed out on his bike hoping to see Neil Armstrong on the moon. They found his bike at a nearby waterfall–but no Charlie. Everyone–except his mother, Maggie–presumed him dead. Forward 40 years. Charlie's little brother, Eric, now an acclaimed author, returns to bury Maggie and fulfill her last request: find Charlie. Eric's former sweetheart, Kat Campbell, is now sheriff of Perry Hollow. Their combined search begins to unravel a tangled skein of events, including a number of missing boys, the mayor's peccadilloes, and bizarre maps and evidence amassed by Maggie over the years and stashed in the Olmstead basement. Ritter, the author of *Death Notice,* is in charge all the way.



Patchwork

Dan Loughry
Harvard Square Editions $15.95

Spanning a decade, *Patchwork* is an AIDS era saga tracing the effects of the disease on one Midwestern family from the late 1980's through the emerging 21st century. As the story opens, Randy Manning, dying of AIDS, his partner Sal, and Randy's parents are visiting the NAMES Project Quilt in Chicago. There is inevitable friction between Randy's parents–particularly his mother, Barbara–and Sal, whom she accuses of infecting her son. After his lover's death, Sal, also HIV-positive, visits Randy's parents briefly, then flees Los Angeles, to face his past, his future, and the potential of new life-prolonging drug cocktails. This short novel is dense with humor, sadness, and the promise of both new relationships and the salvaging of old.





the PRIDE

BY Alexi Kaye Campbell

"A debut of mind-blowing, emotional proportions!" *-Encore Magazine*



Photo by Travis Anderson.

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Thursday, Sept. 29, 7:30 pm

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Pre-show reception at 6:30pm.

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An erotic puzzle that time warps between two gay relationships, in 1958 and 2008, *The Pride* is a frank, complex, and witty story of three people united by love but battling the conventions of each era to find the courage to be themselves.

For info: 612-825-0459
www.pillsburyhousetheatre.org

PILLSBURY HOUSE THEATRE mainstage

Warning: *The Pride* depicts adult content and graphic sexual situations. For ages 17 and older.

Breezy Gay Film Comedy Tackles the Challenges of Being Gay in a Superficial World

DON'T TELL Rick Perry, Marcus Bachmann, and the Exodus International crew in Uganda, about *eCupid: Life on the Download* because not only would they likely be discomfited by its many splendid manly bodies but they'd probably be intimidated by writer/director J.C. Calciano's notable success in actually shaping a viable moral code for countless out gay men who genuinely prefer monogamy. It's a cinematic navigation of moral and ethical dilemmas of what it is to be a gay man in urban America today. Calciano has clearly pondered and processed the problem of gay men being barraged with images, myths, and realities of masculine beauty on the web, in the media, and within the GLBT community itself. Yet, he reveals how a down-to-earth gay guy might maintain a solid, loving relationship with another man in the face of these onslaughts.



J.C. Calciano. Photo by Devin Digert

Hence, for right-wingers who capitalize on the promiscuity stereotype of gays, Calciano has headed them off at the pass. Temptation is an issue across the sexual orientation spectrum and he has framed that issue in depth from an informed gay perspective as opposed to a disinformed homophobic perspective.

eCupid involves a white gay LA couple enduring the doldrums after seven years of monogamy. Marshall (Houston Rhines) is about to turn 30 and is offered lots of hot contacts after joining an online gay social network. His partner, Gabe (Noah Schuffman), has been preoccupied with running his financially strapped coffee shop. As Schuffman puts it, "Gabe is so consumed with work that he doesn't see how his distance and oblivious behavior regarding his relationship to Marshall has contributed to Marshall's curiosity."

Rhines adds, "In the beginning Marshall was self-involved, overworked, and sexually frustrated. Characters like Keith (Matthew Scott Lewis) come into his life and certainly excite him as to the prospects of new guys and experiences. However, no matter how sexy Keith is, Marshall still never finds him more appealing or more desirable than his partner. This is why he never acts upon the sexual energy between the two of them."

Gabe, in turn, is tempted by the studly and apparently prosperous Richard (Brad Pennington). Schuffman says Richard is a reminder "that Gabe needs to focus a little more on his personal life than work."

Dynasty TV legend, Morgan Fairchild shines as a mystically wise waitress in an enchanted roadside diner that starkly contrasts the chi-chi cafes the film's gay men typically frequent. The role reflects Fairchild's own general view. She shares "My basic philosophy has always been kindness. I have always felt a connection to God and the Universe, and felt it is the duty of each of us to reach out in love to our fellow man. It's a simple philosophy and all-encompassing. It enables you to soar above the pettiness of this plane of existence and find true meaning in your time on earth."

Calciano, who also wrote and directed *Is It Just Me?* reflects, "My stories are about the foundation of who we are as people. Gay or straight, we all share the same struggles and I try to explore those challenges in a current, interesting way. Times may change, but we are always looking for the same things." □

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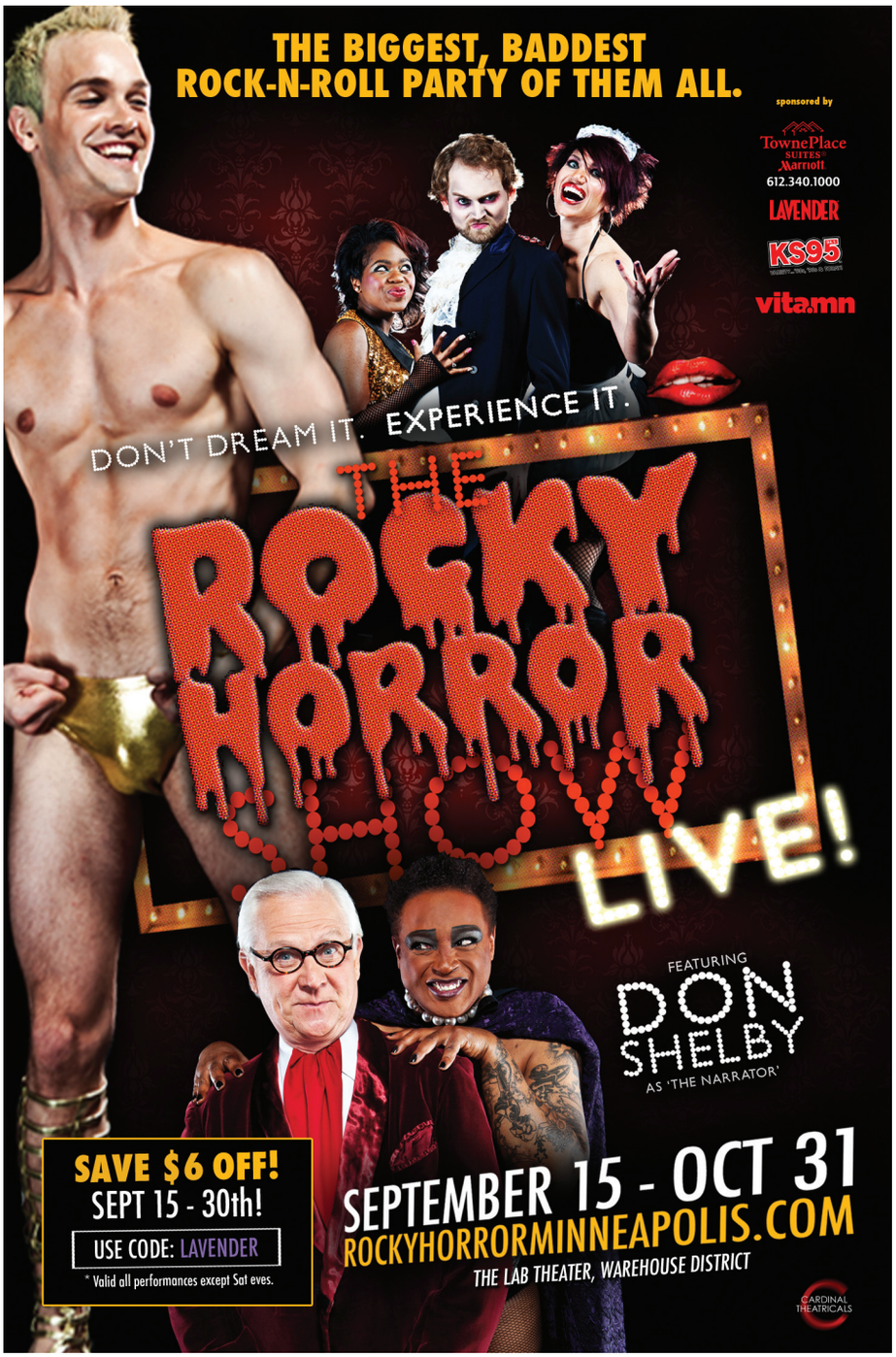
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UBS



Super-Size Performances

IT'S 1962, it's Baltimore, it's *Hairspray,* the delicious musical based on the quirky (of course) film only John Waters could pull off. The Tony-winning Broadway hit, which ended a six-year run in 2009, is now off and running at Chanhassen Dinner Theatres.

And is it ever! From the opening lilt of "Good Morning Baltimore" to the final note of "You Can't Stop the Beat," the main stage takes on new life—and a lot of vibrant, new company members—with its über-energetic, blissfully positive spin on that rockin' era. While Freedom Riders worked to integrate the South, tubby teen Tracy Turnblad—with rose-colored hairbow standing in for optimistically-tinted lenses—integrates her town's popular TV teen dance show, just as the storyline itself integrates fairyland by featuring a fat, unpopular kid as diva.

In a smashing Chan debut, plus-size Therese Walth steals the spotlight (no easy task with this top cast) and our hearts with the downright sweetness—call it innocence—that fuels her potent vocal cords and hyper-energetic dance moves.

She's abetted by her–um—peculiar parents, calling on venerable, and usually type-cast regular David Anthony Brinkley to un-square his shoulders as Edna (looking lovely indeed in a pink housecoat and scuffs). Jay Albright, terminally timid as customary, is a fine fit as Wilbur, her loving spouse. Both prove they can bop right along with the kids.

Speaking of kids—a couple of *Jesus Christ Superstar* stars have found a new religion in rock 'n' roll—primarily Ben Bakken, shedding the Jesus persona for his role as just-as-hunky love interest Link Larkin. Michael Gruber likewise clicks as slick TV show host Corny Collins.

Chan's dance line is as strong, vibrant and winning as we've come to count on, joyously engulfing us in nonstop numbers wittily articulated by resident choreographer Tamara Kangas Erickson. She's backed by the delectable, right on the money Sixties costumes of Nayna Ramey's creation and the mega-wigs of Susan Magnuson, half as tall as the IDS. Director Michael Brindisi presides with a warm, embracing attitude that knits the show together and underscores its timelessness. P.S. As new co-owner of the organization, he's upgraded the dinner part of the dinner theater, thank goodness. As he insists, "The show starts at 6, not 8." The production runs through January. ☐



Hairspray. Photo by Act One, Too



FABULICIOUS

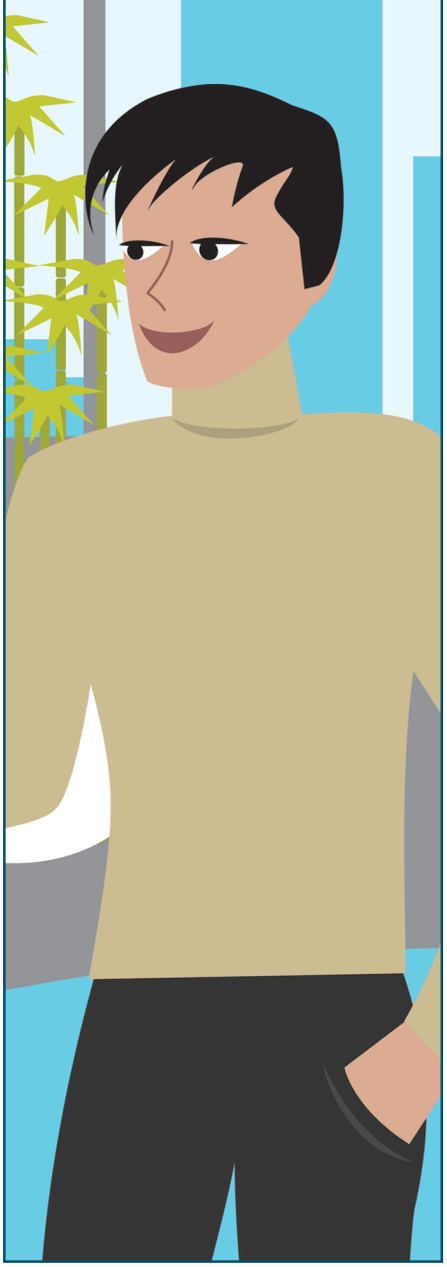
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BROADWAY ACROSS AMERICA MINNEAPOLIS





The Pride. Photo by Travis Anderson

The Pride — One of Britain's recent acclaimed gay dramas gets its area premiere. Playwright Alexi Kaye Campbell juxtaposes gay life in 1958 when homosexuality was still illegal in the UK with the vastly more open gay life in the UK in 2008. Three actors play characters who go by the same names and who, one might say, share psychic traits in both periods, though they are clearly different beings and characters.

In 1958, children's book illustrator, Sylvia (Tracey Maloney) is married to realtor, Philip (Matt Guidry). After she introduces him to Oliver (Clarence Wethern), her employer, the two men quickly deepen their connection. Guidry shares «it's not just once or twice that they get together. They get together two or three times a week over a period of four months, so it's a full-fledged relationship. And then Philip stops it cold."

Maloney senses that the Sylvia «knows somewhere in the back of her head that her husband might be gay. It's not spoken. It's not out loud. Somewhere in the back of her mind she knows something might be in the realm of that but she can't quite come to that consciously."

In the 1958 segments, the actors say there is as much unsaid as is actually said. Director Noel Raymond observes, «Something that's difficult and fun about this play is that innuendo and subtext are the primary things going on." (Classic gay films set in the same era--Victim and Brokeback Mountain--come to mind.)

But in 2008, destigmatization ironically creates a new set of problems. Raymond points out, «It's post-Sexual Revolution, where the self-hatred that is turned inside Oliver in 1958 is externalized. Philip participates in a lot of anonymous sex and he cannot seem to stop it."

Wethern says Oliver «goes to the internet, parks, and just meets up to have sex. Specifically, the dynamic is dominant/submissive. He likes to be dominated and controlled--an oppressor/oppressee dynamic. He sees things that he does with strangers as just a basic bodily function." What Raymond calls divorcing sex from love.

Through Oct. 16 • Pillsbury House, 3501 Chicago Av. S., Mpls. • (612) 825-0459 • www.pillsburyhousetheatre.org

August: Osage County — If you were to say Tracy Letts's 2008 Tony and Pulitzer Prize-winner was the best thing to come out of American theater in a generation, I wouldn't argue with you. What's especially thrilling is that the tragicomedy's first Upper Midwest professional production stars the splendid Barbara Kinsgley who understudied the lead role of Violet in the awesome national tour which starred the awesome Estelle Parsons.

I told Kingsley that I see Violet as harsh. But having dug deeper than I, of course, Kingsley replied, "She has come to cling to her set of truths and one person's truth can be brutal and brutalizing." **Through Oct. 2 • Park Square Theatre, • 20 W. 7th Pl., Mpls. • (651) 291-7005 www.parksquaretheatre.org**



August: Osage County. Photo by Amy Anderson

***Cinematic Titanic* —** The Minnesotans who brought us Mystery Science Theater are back here from LA with their acclaimed new project, *Cinematic Titanic*, where corny movie gems *Rattlers, War of the Insects*, and *Doomsday Machine* get totally riffed! When musing about the public's enduring appetite for scary B-movies, project creator Joel Hogsdon muses "You wanna be taken away into that world and forget yourself and when movies are done well, we all kind of share in a waking dream. And when they're not done well, there's something real tantalizing about it because all the elements are there but they're not quite assembled right." **Sept. 15-17 • Parkway Theatre, • 4814 Chicago Av., Mpls. • (612) 822-3030 • www.theparkwaytheater.com**

Bus Stop — Tennessee Williams (1911-1983) tends to top lists as the 20th century's greatest gay American playwright. And, indeed, he does deserve his giant outdoor image at the Guthrie. But William Inge (1913-1973), to many, is second best, rivaling Edward Albee (born 1928). Director Robert Goudy shares that in Inge's 1955 comedy "An empty loneliness resides at the center of the play, as each character seeks in their own way, to reach beyond that void and make a connection." **• Thought Oct. 2 • Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Av., Mpls. • (612) 333-3010 www.theatreintheround.org**



Bus Stop. Photo copyright Act One, Too, Ltd

Despair Be Damned: Music and Dance from the Congo — Walker Performing Arts Curator Philip Bither says, "This two-part series demonstrates how artists often provide a remarkable degree of hope, healing, and political courage, even in the most desperate of national circumstances." At the Walker, the Studios Kabako dancers choreographed by Faustin Linyekula will physically interpret recent global uprisings. At the Cedar, Staff Benda Bilili, a collective of self-taught, disabled street musicians, some formerly homeless, will make what Bither calls "a distinctive, joyous sound." Sept. 22-27 • Walker Art Center, 1750 Hennepin Av., Mpls. & Cedar Cultural Center, • 416 Cedar Av. S., Mpls. • (612) 375-7600 • www.walkerart.org



The Book of Liz. Photo by Fibonacci Studio

The Book of Liz — The Freshwater troupe revives the Sedaris siblings, Amy and David's, '01 spoof on "Americana" as seen through the eyes of Liz (Mame Pelletier), an endearingly naive, non-judgemental Amish woman. When she befriends two gay men, Duncan (Joel Raney) and Donny (Michael Sung-Ho), at a restaurant where she works, her world view expands. Raney says, "It teaches us cultural acceptance through the kindness Liz shares with everyone she encounters in the big outside world." **Through Sept. • 25 Nimbus Theatre, • 1517 Central Av. NE, Mpls. (612) 816-8479 • www.FreshwaterTheatre.com**



Rumblings. Photo by Siddiqui Ray

Rumblings — As the Cowles Center begins its mission to provide space for homegrown dance performances, it's fitting that the Minnesota Dance Theatre reprises its acclaimed Blues Ballet, Rumblings. Choreographer Lise Houlton says that revisiting the piece has been an "exhilarating collaboration of powerful, sensuous company dancers, composer/arranger/pianist Tom Linker and the sumptuous voice of Harley Wood." You may recall Wood's fabulous performance in Cardinal Theatricals' *Rent* last year. He says "I am very honored." **Sept. 30 - Oct. 9 • Cowles Center for Dance & the Performing Arts, 528 Hennepin Av., Mpls. • (612) 206-3636 • www.thecowlescenter.org** □

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And the camera flashes.

Jean Paul Kelly yells instructions to his moving canvas as he snaps shot after shot. He's our photographer for the evening. We're on a promotional shoot for a social club I host in town. There are five co-hosts, each with our own flavor, our own trademark personalities: Grace, Style, Romance, Spice, and Ambition.

"YES!" Jean Paul cheers as he reviews a shot. We're suddenly off the lavish sofa that serves as our setting and at his side to stare into the camera's screen. We sigh in collective relief. All five of us look phenomenal. The lighting is flawless. This will make the final cut.

We shoot two more scenes and, another hour and a half later, we're done. When JP is satisfied he has what he needs, we sprawl on the sofa we used as a prop. Ultra-plush.

We spent the day preparing ourselves for tonight. Our meticulously chosen wardrobe, handled delicately as not to create a single wrinkle, holds no priority now. We're exhausted.

"I can never wear this suit again," I say in regard to the silver, shiny ensemble I'm wearing.

"Love, no one would remember that thing anyway," Brandon, our Style, responds. We all laugh. Our humor is insatiable, silly, uniquely...us.

"Dinner?" someone suggests, though no response is needed. In these clothes? Of course. We're all dressed up and ready to play.

We walk down Hennepin. The streets are glossy with a recent rain, romantic. Downtown's sparkle reflects on the asphalt. The five of us savor this moment. We stop our banter as the wind blows through our jackets. Mana's–our Grace's–dress twirls in the wind.

Five friends. Five kids still playing dress-up. One thought: There is romance tonight. It twinkles in the flash of a camera, a reflection of a dream in our eye. □



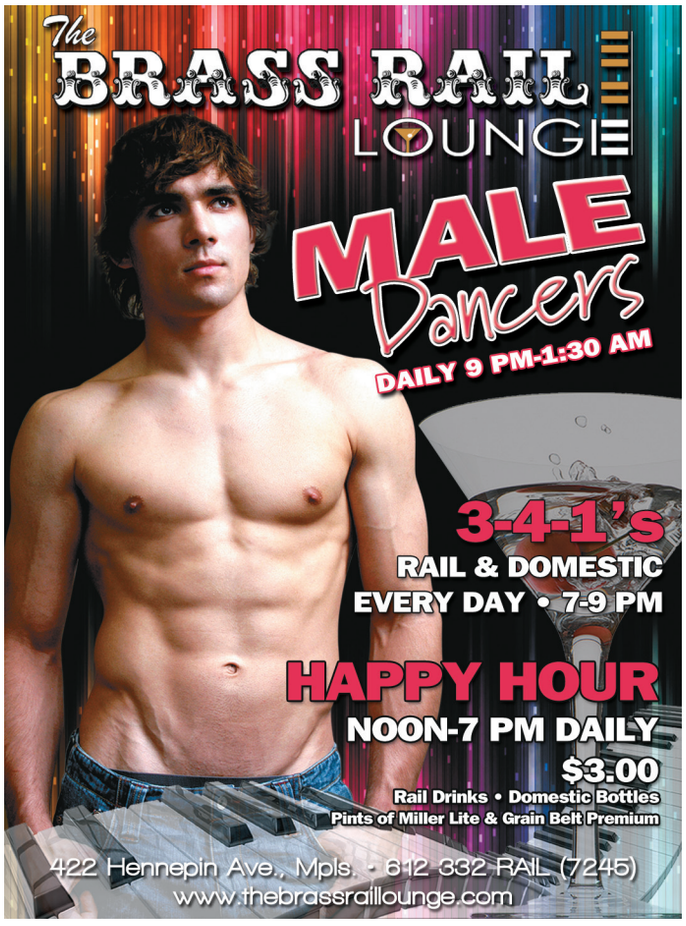




FALL IS FOR GARDENING!

WITH LABOR Day behind us, unofficially summer takes the backseat to the cooler temperatures, and shorter days of autumn. Leaves just barely start to turn, signaling the end of the growing season with frost not too far away. The reality of gardening in the upper Midwest is that springs and summers are never quite long enough. As a result, embrace the autumn season by making the very best of these shorter days in the garden. Fall is a perfect time to assess the garden, refresh tired summer plantings, divide perennials, and add new plants.







I encourage gardeners to use this time of year to assess the trials and tribulations of their gardens while they are fresh in their minds. Take note of the things that you would like to tweak or include in new plantings (now or in the spring). It is a whole lot easier to remember variety names when they are written down. Take photos of win-

Photo Courtesy of Tangletown Gardens

ning plant combinations you would like to repeat again and areas that need to get revamped. Keep a folder of these reminders as they will also serve as inspiration for new garden ideas.

Fall's cooler temperatures make it an ideal time to divide clump-forming perennials, and to move existing perennials around. Since horticulture is the only science where multiplication can be done through division, dividing your favorite perennials now will allow you to economically add more of your favorites, or to share plants with friends. Don't be afraid to dig in, divide, and conquer. The process will hurt you more than the plant, and will actually breathe new life into older perennials once they are divided. Use a shovel to split clumps into smaller divisions and then replant in their new locations. Cut back foliage near the ground line to minimize stress and water them into their new homes.

Treat yourself to new trees, shrubs, and perennials now to lighten your load come spring. The fall temperatures will make it easier to keep new plants watered, and they will be ready to take off when spring comes around. Try to have them in the ground before the third week in September to allow them enough time to root in before the ground freezes in late November.

And last but not least, plant bulbs! After all, bulb planters are the optimists of the world, something the world could use a few more of these days. All gardens evolve and with a little optimism and love, will improve over time. □

Scott Endres is co-owner of Tangletown Gardens and the Wise Acre Eatery on 54th and Nicollet in South Minneapolis.

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(left) Wise Acre Eatery's outdoor dining area; (right) Fried Green Tomato Sandwich. Photos by Mike Hnida

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The west coast may have beaten Minneapolis to the punch in popularizing local, seasonal and sustainable dining while we were still re-working the corn dog. However, by all reckoning, the locavore movement has settled here, grown roots, and taken over the dining scene. Calling it a trend, I believe, is misguided. Celebrating a close connection from farm to plate is a return to what food has always been, and should always be. Factory farms, frankenfoods and pre-made entrees have had their day in the 20th century. But the new millennium welcomes us back to the garden, where I believe we–a humbler, wiser we–will stay.

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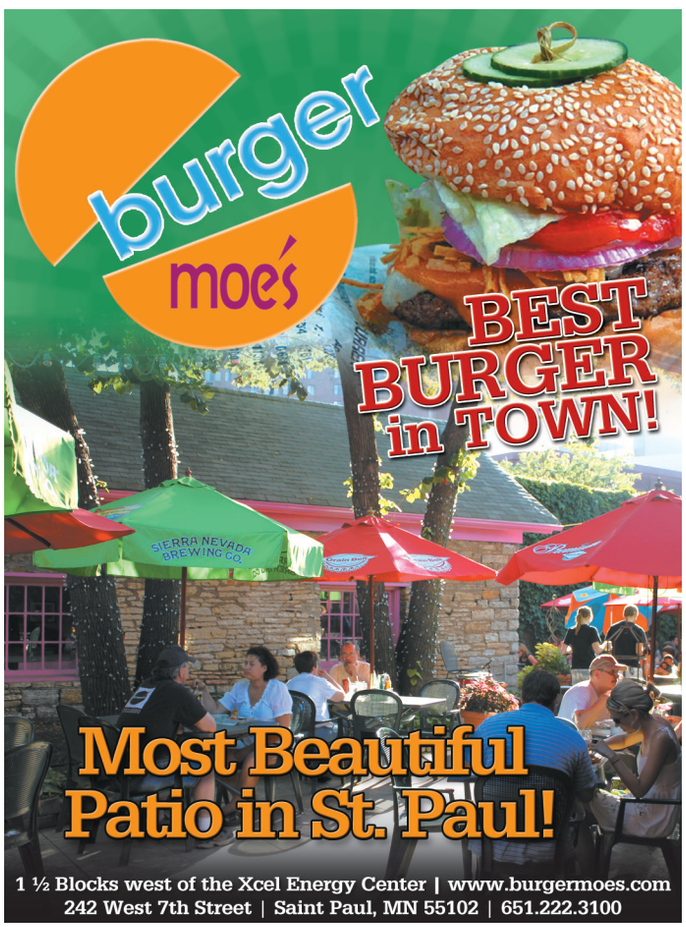
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(clockwise from top left) Shades of Summer Salad; Bacon Steak & Shallot Marmalade; Lemon Herb Chicken. Photos by Mike Hnida

Wise Acre Eatery owners Scott Endres and Dean Engelmann, who also own the nearby Tangletown Gardens, have made a veritable Eden out of what was once a Standard Oil station. Now a delightful riot of greenery permeates the dining space, to the point that the huge garage doors seem almost whimsical. It's a pleasant spot to sit and linger, that is, if you can put up with the din of excited diners. Because of the architecture, the noise just has nowhere to go, so it sits like a thick cloud inside the dining room. The servers do their best to talk over it, but even I had to cup my ear just to understand the specials. A noisy dining room is a necessary by-product of the Wise Acre Eatery's tremendous success to be sure–in fact, expect a 20-minute wait any night of the week.

However, if you can steal away one of those beautiful September nights and sit outside, you're in for a real treat. Endres and Engelmann definitely have capitalized on the new dining movement, but they've also taken it a bit further. The Engelmann family farm supplies much of the restaurants produce, to the point that a dish can vary not monthly, not weekly, but *daily*, according to what's the freshest.

The night's special was a Fried Green Tomato Sandwich, laced with bacon aioli and layered with arugula and fresh heirloom tomatoes. It's the kind of sandwich you just may end up eating with a knife and fork, but I probably wouldn't have it any other way. Even if you're not a tomato fan, please make an exception if this beauty is on the menu. It's a rare pleasure to have a dish where every ingredient happens to be peaking at the same time, and what results is a taste that's difficult to describe. My attempt would be to say that each ingredient is more complementary to the next, working together to create a taste that is constantly changing. And when you eat it, you taste also the knowledge that this same sandwich will not be exactly the same tomorrow. Like your first kiss or your last day of school, it is but a fleeting pleasure, and you must enjoy it now, at this precise moment.

With the special, we had been sipping a festive Riondo Prosecco ($6/27). It may be as pink and bubbly as an Edina prom queen, but it was surprisingly robust and well-grounded. With our next course, the Shades of Summer salad ($12), we switched to the Calera "Vin Gris" ($6/27). I'm on a bit of a rosé journey right now, and this chef favorite brought a little sass to the table.

The salad was simply exquisite. Delicate lettuces, pickled eggs, and a chicken/quinoa salad are oh-so-lightly dressed, and topped with one of Wise Acre's specialties: bacon steak. I may have been foolish to box up the rest of it–yes, I *know* salads don't exactly keep well–but if you eat it, I think you'll understand. I know that Endres and Engelmann compost the restaurant's food waste, but I couldn't bring myself to discard anything on that plate.

Bacon Steak & Shallot Marmalade ($7) from the snack menu arrived, stacked high with slices of baguette and heirloom tomatoes. It presented a bit of a challenge for the knife and fork, and so I chose to just eat mine with what the good Lord gave me. A glass of Blue Franc ($6/27) is this snack's soul mate--warm, inviting and boosting the bacon steak to new heights.

After our inspired starters, I thought the Lemon Herb Chicken ($18) needed a little perking up, even with the lemon. The chicken is so wonderfully moist that I am considering that I perhaps just got spoiled with our earlier dishes, and began expecting miracles only to be disappointed with great food.

A glass of twitterpated Tiamo Prosecco ($6/28) could have served as dessert, but we also tried a scoop of plum custard ($2.50, Wise Acre inherited Liberty's custard machine) and the Affagato ($4.50)–vanilla custard with a shot of espresso that will knock your socks off. The kitchen is looking to bring in new desserts soon, but hopefully will keep at least some custard dishes on the menu–homemade custard is such a rare treat.

Sitting in this garden of earthly delights, I suddenly became sad to think of the imminent passing of this lovely summer. But thanks to this kitchen, I'm also damn curious about fall. Indeed, the epicures and the food-curious should consider the Wise Acre Eatery's September 18th multi-course dinner with wine, hosted at the Tangletown Gardens farm in Plato. Tickets are $190, and can be purchased at the Wise Acre Eatery (5401 Nicollet Ave, Mpls) or at the nearby Tangletown Gardens. □

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WHAT TO WEAR — AND WHEN

GQ Magazine described St. Paul as one of the 40 worst dressed cities in America this summer. This accusation is a hit below the belt, but let us view it as a wake-up call not only to St. Paul, but to the Twin Cities as a whole. Let's step up our game and put our best well- shoed foot forward.

The Midwest's fashionistas know the names and work of designers, yet have managed to ignore both the competitive sport of fashion on the coasts and the pageantry of the South. By following a few simple guidelines, you can sport appropriate wear for all occasions. Being well dressed not only saves confusion, it puts you on equal footing with other guests in social occasions and with your colleagues in the workplace









→ LET'S BREAK IT DOWN INTO FIVE CATEGORIES: CASUAL, CASUAL DRESSY, BUSINESS CASUAL, BEST BUSINESS AND BLACK-TIE.

Casual runs the gamut from sportswear to jeans. These are the clothes your mother wouldn't let you wear to church. Save casual clothes for running errands at the super-center or lounging in a hammock. Most hipster fads fall under this category. Casual shoes include flip-flops, clogs, sneakers and the like. Casual clothes include nifty warm-up wear, yoga clothing, jeans with store-bought tears/fades and rhinestones. Tattoo impressions, Bahamas prints (unless in the Keys) and lewd phrases are also included in this category, as are most nightclub outfits. Cotton and jersey fabrics are casual.

Casual Dressy is ironed slacks, buttoned shirts and structured skirts. Cottons to wool, these fashions could swing through a summer church service. Shoes are more tailored and include loafers and boat shoes, flats (for women), leather sandals and suede. Muted colors of white, tan, soft blues, grey, black and subtle prints are perfect. Summer seersuckers, khaki cuts and chinos in relaxed fits belong here. Business Casual doesn't mean suits, but a somewhat more formal look—at least slacks with nice sport coats for men and tailored dresses for women. Ties for the guys are optional. All shirts button and have a good collar. Shoes are closed-toe for men, but women can have some fun with peep-toes and sandals. All of the colors of Casual Dressy are appropriate. If you want to wear stronger colors, such as yellow, red or pink, accessorize and keep it above the waist—and by all means, save Kellygreen for St. Patrick's Day. **Business Casual** doesn't mean rumpled, so pick structured fabrics that don't pucker and wrinkle. Wools, fine cotton and other materials that hold their shape will present a tailored fit.

Best Business is the most formal daily wear. Well tailored or custom suits in dark colors for men and full coverage (below the knee) outfits for the gals. Footwear is conservative, with closed toes for both men and women. Leather is the gold standard for footwear, finished simply with little trim work. Colors are generally muted; greys, black and navy blue are preferred. Crisp white for shirts with minimal accessories (no pinky rings!).

Black-Tie is about as formal as it gets these days—the occasions are few and far between when we get to wear white-tie and tails! Tailoring for formal wear is crucial, to



have a perfect fit. Even a second-hand tuxedo can be acceptable with the right alterations. Under no circumstances does black-tie imply a fun bowtie or cummerbund. Save the polka dots and hideous colors for the dentists in the crowd. As for those handy-dandy clip-on bowties, just say "No." Tying a proper bowtie is an easy and invaluable skill to learn. For the ladies, floor-length dresses are best. Evening formal wear should be sleeveless or have sheer arms; capes, wraps and light tailored jackets keep those shoulders warm. Daytime formal attire may include sleeves, especially for weddings.

Let's look at some events that might appear on your social calendar this fall and the appropriate clothing to wear:

A date to the orchestra or heading to the opera with Mother? Business Casual unless it's opening night, then Black-Tie.

Holiday party at the boss's house? Business Casual, but make it your best—dress for your next promotion. The same applies to parties at the office.

Dinner with your future in-laws? Business Best—this will be your most important interview and first impressions count.

Tea party in a private home? Casual Dressy to Business Casual. Be bold with your accessories; it will give you and your host something to talk about.

Cocktails at a fundraiser? Usually Business Casual to Business Best.

A benefit with dinner and auction? Black-tie unless otherwise noted. Dinner at a fine restaurant? Business Casual to Best Business. A suit jacket always looks sharp in a dining room.

A friend's wedding? Venue determines attire. Is it in a private club or a barn? When in doubt, dress up, but keep it simple; don't compete with the bridal party.

Remember these basic dress codes; it seems that people are so afraid of over-dressing for any event that they're willing to run the risk of under-dressing. You probably already have the right attire; it's just a matter of putting it into play. Just keep in mind these questions as you choose your attire:

What kind of event is it: formal, semi-formal, casual, acquaintance?
Who is my audience: business, friends, public, private?
What time of day is it?
What kind of venue is it: ballroom, restaurant, private home, poolside?

Dress guidelines are not intended to exclude. They are designed to give people, no matter their background, a level playing field. So get dressed for your event; we hope to see you there! □

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO A LYNX GAME*

I went to my first Minnesota Lynx game on August 30 when they smacked the Washington Mystics at the Target Center, 73-56. I was worried; I've gone to one professional basketball game in my life...about eight years ago. I didn't know how to go to a basketball game. "Smacked?" Is that the right word for trouncing the opponent in such a fashion? At one time, they were up by 20 points...the first half was a little iffy, but by the end it was clear: Our WNBA team is on their way to the playoffs and I fully expect a smackdown the whole way to the Championship. Big talk from someone who just went to her first Lynx game, but if there's one thing I know about beginners and sports, we don't take chances. This sounds like a sure thing.

What's also a sure thing is that you should be at the games.

Never been to a game, either? Don't psych yourself out about it. Let me be of assistance.

Don't sweat the venue. The Target Center is just like any other big building in downtown Minneapolis that people go to for an event. If you're accustomed to going to Orchestra Hall or the Walker Art Center for concerts or exhibits, it's the same thing to be going to the Target Center for basketball. You find a place to park, you go to the box office, you find your seat, and you settle in to give yourself up to the Lynx for couple of hours. The space may appear surprisingly small and intimate to a first-timer. I was impressed that the seats are so close to the floor–like going to a show at First Avenue over the Xcel Center. The action is right there in front of us–smackdown central.

Look around and catch the energy. Be prepared to know people. Minnesota is lucky to have one of only 12 Women's National Basketball Association teams in the United States and, of course, it's no surprise that a large percentage of the Lynx fan base is from the GLBT community. If not in the community, itself, the seats are full of enlightened people who have caught on to the fact that we've got a stellar women's basketball team. The fans are loyal and growing in number, as well they should be. And, chances are good that you know some of the other enlightened individuals in the seats. It's an energetic, feel-good group of people.

Mastery of the game of basketball is not required. I was worried that I wouldn't know what was happening on the boards, that someone would out me and I'd be asked to leave. Not at all. People are extremely willing to give the rookie some pointers and though I may not have understood why the whistle blew at particular times, I got the gist of it. Turns out, the back-to-back years that I watched Duke win the NCAA Championship with my older brother 20 years ago came in very handy for understanding which players were in what roles for the Lynx (as players, not as attitudes).

Get to know our players and coaches. There are 11 players. It's catchy when the crowd croons "MAYAHHH" whenever Maya Moore makes a basket. Former Gopher Lindsay Whalen was the top scorer against the Mystics and Candice Wiggins gave an inspirational speech after the game about HIV/AIDS Awareness. The players are real and they're worth getting to know. All of the players got time against the Mystics and each one of them scored. Cheryl Reeves is the Head Coach; Shelley Patterson and Jim Peterson are the Assistant Coaches. Watch the coaches–they can be as fascinating as the players and the game. Like any other organized sport, they use a body language and signals. And, they use them to win.

Appreciation is easy. You're there to be involved so get caught up in the excitement of the game. These women are phenomenal athletes. Not to be conflated with the euphemistic "physical fitness" aspect of a beauty pageant, any athletic event is a time to appreciate the abilities of the human body. The strategies of the human mind. The chemistry of a team. And, the crisp air of a victory. Okay...and if that's a bit too flowery for you, they're wiping the boards with their opponents. That's stinking awesome. □



Photo by Sophia Hantzes

*To those of you who are die-hard fans, thank you for indulging me and reading this Beginner's Guide to your Lynx games. Be prepared to see more of us newbies in the seats in this next month and your patience and assistance is appreciated. I promise, though, that a real sports writer will be covering the playoff games in our upcoming issues. I know when it's my place to just watch and learn.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

SEPTEMBER



Cinematic Titanic. Photo by Joshua Targownik



Pride. Photo by Travis Anderson

8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

Minnesota Lynx Home Game Sept 8 • 7 PM • Lynx vs. Sky • Target Center, Mpls • For tickets or more info, visit www.wnba.com/lynx

Fashion's Night Out 2011 Sept 8 • 6 – 10 PM • Galleria, 3510 W. 70th St., Edina • For more info, visit www.galleriaedina.com

University of Minnesota School of Music presents The World Famous Glenn Miller Orchestra Sept 8 • 7:30 PM • Tickets $34/$29 • Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Mpls • For tickets or more info, call 612-624-2345 or visit www.tickets.umn.edu

"Tushaanal: Fires of Dry Grass"
Sept 8 –11 • Southern Theater, 1420 Washington Ave. S., Mpls • For more info or tickets, call 800-838-3006 or visit www.brownpapertickets.com

Second Annual Gala In the Garden Sept 8 • 7 – 10 PM • Greater Frogtown Community Development Corporation, 533 N. Dale St., St. Paul • For tickets or more info, call 651-789-7400 or visit www.greaterfrogtowncdc.org

Urban Samurai presents "Rumors" Sept 9 – 24 • Sabes Jewish Community Center, 4330 Cedar Lake Rd. S., Mpls • For more info or tickets, call 612-396-2025 or www.urbansamurai.org

Bryant-Lake Bowl presents "*Torch Song: Birth of a Diva*" Sept 9 – 10 • 7 PM • Tickets $10 advance, $12 day of show • Bryant Lake Bowl, Uptown Mpls • For more info, call 612-825-8949 • Buy tickets at www.brownpapertickets.com

Oktoberfest on the Minneapolis Riverfront. Sept 9 – 11 • Fri/4 – 10 PM, Sat/11 AM – 10 PM, Sun/noon – 6 PM • Minneapolis Riverfront, near St. Anthony Main and River Place • www.minneapolisoktoberfest.com

Creative Placemaking Challenges and Opportunities in 2011. Sept 9 • 1:30 – 3:00 PM • Minneapolis Central Library, Pohlad Hall, 300 Nicollet Mall, Mpls • Free & open to public • www.hennepintheatretrust.org/creative-placemaking

Patrick's Cabaret presents "*Lower The Lap Bar: An Open Call Cabaret*"
Sept 9 – 10 • 8 PM • Admission $10 • Patrick's Cabaret, 3010 Minnehaha Ave. S., Mpls • For more info, call 612-724-6273 or visit www.patrickscabaret.org

Minnesota Trans Health and Awareness Conference. Sept 9 – 10 • South High School, 3131 19th Ave. S., Mpls • For registration or more info, visit www.mntranshealth.org

Mankato Pridefest 2011
Sept 9 – 10 • All events rain or shine • Riverfront Park, Mankato, MN • No pets allowed, as Mankato doesn't allow pets at Mankato Parks • For more info, directions and a complete list of activities, visit us at www.scmnpride.org

Concrete and Grass – Lowertown Music Festival. Sept 9 – 11 • Mears Park, St. Paul, MN • For a full listing of times, as well as performers, visit www.concreteandgrass.com

11th Annual Grape Stomp. Sept 10 – 11 • 6428 Manning Ave. N., Stillwater • For more info, visit www.scvwines.com

North Star Gay Rodeo Association Dance. Sept 10 • 8 PM – 12:30 AM • $10 suggested donation at door gets you in and the first beverage of your choice • Ballentine VFW, 2916 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls • For more info, visit www.nsgra.org

Twin Cities Annual HRC Gala Dinner. Sept 10 • 6 PM • The Depot, 225 3rd Ave., Minneapolis • www.hrc.org

Unity Christ Church – "Unity, Metaphysics, and the Beatles". Sept 11, 18 and 25 • 9 AM and 11 AM services • Unity Christ Church, 4000 Golden Valley Rd., Golden Valley, MN • For more info, call 763-521-4793 or visit www.unitychristchurch.org

5th Annual "The Barry Manilow Birthday Extravaganza"!. Sept 12 • 6 PM doors, 7 PM show • Tickets $10 • Bryant-Lake Bowl Cabaret Theater, 810 W. Lake St., Mpls • For reservations, call 612-825-8949 or www.bryantlakebowl.com

The Center of Light presents a Lecture Series. Sept 13 • 7 PM • $8 per lecture • 2548 Pleasant Ave., Mpls • For more info or to register, call 612-205-5545, visit www.minneapolis.lightlectureseries.com or email Minneapolis@centersoflight.org

Nina Bliese Gallery presents Ann Ginsburgh Hofkin – "*Contemplating Mysterious Landscapes*". Sept 13 – Nov 11 • Opening reception Sept 15 from 5 – 8 PM • Gallery hours: Tues – Fri/Noon to 4 PM, or by appointment (call 651-328-7762) • Nina Bliese Gallery, 225 S. 6th St., Ground Floor, Mpls • For more info, call 612-332-2978 or visit www.ninabliesegallery.com

Nina Bliese Gallery presents Elise DeLong – "*Veiled Illusions*". Sept 13 – Nov 11 • Opening reception Sept 15 from 5 – 8 PM • Gallery hours: Tues – Fri/Noon to 4 PM, or by appointment (call 651-328-7762) • Nina Bliese Gallery, 225 S. 6th St., Ground Floor, Mpls • For more info, call 612-332-2978 or visit www.ninabliesegallery.com

State Theatre – "*Yo Gabba Gabba! Live!: It's Time to Dance!" Presented by Kia Motors.* Sept 15 • 3 PM and 6 PM • Tickets $25 – $45 • State Theatre, 805 Hennepin Ave, Mpls • For tickets, call 1-800-982-2787 or visit www.hennepintheatretrust.org

The Lab Theater presents "*Rocky Horror Show – Live*". Sept 15 – Oct 31 • Tickets $46.50, VIP for $55 • The Lab Theater, 700 N. 1st St., Mpls • For more info, including a list of performance times, visit www.thelabtheater.org • www.rockyhorrorminneapolis.com

Parkway Theater presents "*Cinematic Titanic – aka Mystery Science Theater 3000*". Sept 15 – 17 • Thurs: "Doomsday Machine", Fri: "War of the Insects", Sat: "Rattlers" • Tickets: $28/General Admission, $35/Reserved • Parkway Theater, 4814 Chicago Ave. S., Mpls • For tickets or more info, call 612-822-3030 or visit www.theparkwaytheater.com or also www.brownpapertickets.com

***"Tidal Tendencies"* co-presented by Jessica Briggs and Nick LaMere**
Sept 15 and 17 • Bryant Lake Bowl Theater, Uptown Mpls • For more info, contact Jessica at 651-253-8394 or via jessicabriggs@gmail.com • www.bryantlakebowl.com

PFund Moxie Awards. Sept 15 • 5 – 8 PM • Free community event, but please RSVP • Neighborhood House at Wellstone Center, 179 Robie St. E., St. Paul • www.pfundonline.org

GenYWCA Fitness Social Kickoff Event. Sept 15 • 5 – 7 PM • Downtown YWCA of Minneapolis, 1130 Nicollet Mall, Mpls • Please RSVP at http://genywcakickoff-rss.eventbrite.com/

Bryant-Lake Bowl presents "Dykes Do Drag". Sept 15 – 17 • 9:30 PM Doors, 10 PM Show • Tickets: $14/advance, $18/day of show • Bryant-Lake Bowl Cabaret Theater, 810 W. Lake St., Mpls • For tickets or more info, call 612-825-8949 or visit www.bryantlakebowl.com

Mixed Blood Theatre presents "*Neighbors*". Sept 16 – Oct 9 • Mixed Blood Theatre, 1501 S. 4th St., Mpls • For more info or tickets, call 612-338-6131 or visit www.mixedblood.com

Foam Party. Sept 16 • 18+ only • VIP Card Member exclusives • Coat check available • Gay 90s, 408 S. Hennepin Ave., Mpls • www.gay90s.com

Oktoberfest at the Gasthaus. Sept 16 – 18 and 23 – 25 • Gasthaus Bavarian Hunter Restaurant, 8390 Lofton Ave., Stillwater • For more info, call 651-439-7128 or visit www.gasthaus-bavarianhunter.com

Pantages Theatre presents An Evening With Lindsey Buckingham. Sept 16 • 8 PM • Tickets $43.50 – 53.50 • Pantages Theatre, 710 Hennepin Ave. S., Mpls • For tickets, call 1-800-982-2787 or visit www.hennepintheatretrust.org

String Quartet Chamber Music Concert. Sept 16 • Noon • Free to public • Landmark Center, Courtroom 317, 75 W. 5th St., St. Paul • For more info, call 612-871-7781 or visit www.music-camp.org

Park Square Theatre presents "*August: Osage County*". Sept 16 – Oct 2 • Tickets $38 – 58 • Performances Thurs – Sat at 7:30 PM, Sundays at 2 PM • Park Square Theatre, 20 W. 7th Pl., St. Paul • For tickets or more info, call 651-291-7005 or visit www.parksquaretheatre.org

CALENDAR



Naked Girls. Photo by Wijadi Jodiu



Minnesota Lynx. Photo by Sophia Hantzes



Ecupid. Photo by Devin Dygert

Minnesota Storm Patrol: Northern Exposure VIII. Sept 16 – 18 • Twin Cities • www.mnstorm.com

The Pillsbury House Theatre presents *"The Pride".* Sept 16 – Oct 16 • Pillsbury House Theatre, 3501 Chicago Ave. S., Mpls • NOTE: This show depicts adult content and graphic sexual situations, and is suitable for ages 17 and older only • For performance times, ticket prices and tickets, call 612-825-0459 or visit www.pillsburyhousetheatre.org

State Theatre presents Gordon Lightfoot in Concert. Sept 17 • 8 PM • Tickets $48.50 – 58.50 • State Theatre, 805 Hennepin Ave., Mpls • For tickets or more info, call 1-800-982-2787 or visit www.hennepintheatretrust.org

Man2Man Sexual Health Seminar. Sept 17 – 18 • Free • Augsburg College, Minneapolis • For more info, call 612-626-7937 or 1-800-552-8636 • www.m2m.mn

Minnesota Orchestra presents Ben Folds With the Minnesota Orchestra. Sept 17 • 8 PM • Tickets $25 – $60, VIP $80 • Orchestra Hall, 1111 Nicollet Mall, Mpls • For more info or tickets, call 612-371-5656 or visit www.minnesotaorchestra.org

Red Wing Diversity Festival. Sept 18 • 10 AM – 4 PM • Free • Central Park, Red Wing, MN • For more info, visit www.red-wing.org

Minneapolis Bike Tour. Sept 18 • 7:30 AM – 2:30 PM • Parade Field, near Sculpture Garden, Mpls • For more info and to register, visit www.minneapolisbiketour.com

Ivey Awards. Sept 19 • 7:30 PM • Historic State Theatre, Downtown Mpls • www.iveyawards.com

Faith Organizing for Marriage Equality Campaign Kickoff
Sept 19 • 6 – 8:30 PM • Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, 511 Groveland, Mpls • For more info, visit www.outfront.org

Cavalia: A Magical Encounter Between Human and Horse
Sept 21 – Oct 2 • Tickets $64.50 – 99.50 plus applicable fees • White Big Top near The Shops at West End, Mpls • For more info or tickets, call 1-866-999-8111 or www.cavalia.net

Jawaahir Dance Company presents *"Golden Nights on the Silver Screen"*
Sept 22 – Oct 2 • Tickets $29, with Sept 28 performance pay-as-able • Ritz Theater, 345 13th Ave. NE, Mpls • For more info on event, as well as performance times and tickets, call 612-436-1129 or visit www.ritzdolls.com • www.jawaahir.org

Festa Italiana. Sept 23 – 24 • Fri/ 3 – 9 PM, Sat/9 AM – 9 PM • Free and open to public • Harriet Island, St. Paul • For more info, visit www.festaitalianamn.com

Art on Main. Sept 23 – 24 • Fri/4 – 9 PM, Sat/11 AM – 5 PM • Main Street, Stillwater, MN

St. Cloud Pridefest. Sept 23 – 25 • For more info, visit us at www.stcloudpride.org

Patrick's Cabaret presents *"Random Tandem: An Open Call Cabaret".* Sept 23 – 24 • 8 PM • Tickets $10 at door (cash or check only) • Patrick's Cabaret, 3010 Minnehaha Ave. S., Mpls • For more info, call 612-724-6273 or visit www.patrickscabaret.org

Bagpipes and Bonfires. Sept 24 • 5:30 – 10:30 PM • Ascension Church, 214 N. 3rd St., Stillwater • For more info, visit www.ae-church.org

33rd Annual Afton Art in the Park. Sept 24 – 25 • Sat/10 AM – 5 PM, Sun/11 AM – 4 PM • Afton, MN • For more info, visit www.afton-artfair.com

Walk for Recovery! 2011. Sept 24 • 9 AM – 1 PM • Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church, 2020 W. Lake of the Isles Pkwy., Mpls • For more event details, as well as registration, visit us at www.minnesotarecovery.org

Food, Wine and Cider Festival. Sept 24 • 1 – 6 PM • Tickets: $30/Adults, $15/Children under 12, group rates available • Maiden Rock Winery & Cidery, Stockholm, WI • For more info, visit www.maidenrockwinerycidery.com • www.stockholmwisconsin.com/events.html

Fall Equinox Festival. Sept 24 • 7 – 9 PM • Tickets $10 • WideSpot Performing Arts Center, Stockholm, WI • For more info, visit www.widespotperformingarts.org • www.stockholmwisconsin.com/events.html

"F. Scott's 115th Birthday". Sept 24 • 2 PM • Free & open to public • Central Library Fitzgerald Alcove, 3rd Floor, 90 W. 4th St., St. Paul • For more info, call 651-222-3242 or email friends@thefriends.org • www.thefriends.org

***"Tales of Two Cities"* – The premiere of Naked Girls Reading, Minneapolis**
Sept 24 • 7:30 PM /Doors, 8 PM/Reading • Seating is limited, Ages 21+ only • Studio Dubois, 2400 N. 2nd St., Ste. 305, Mpls • www.nakedgirlsreading.com/Minneapolis

Healing Minnesota With Song, Word and Spirit . Sept 25 • Every fourth Sunday of month (except Dec) through Oct 2012 • Plymouth Congregational Church, 1900 Nicollet, Mpls • For more info, call 612-871-7400 or visit www.plymouth.org

3rd Annual Walk & Roll Event. Sept 25 • 8 – 10:30 AM • Mall of America, Main Rotunda, Bloomington, MN • For more info, visit www.mwsservices.org

Ongoing

Intermedia Arts and Grupo Soap del Corazon present *"El Milagro".* Through Sept 11 • Gallery hours Mon – Fri/10 AM – 6 PM, Sat/12 – 5 PM • Suggested $3 donation • Intermedia Arts, 2822 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls • www.intermediaarts.org

"Shades of Red: The Evolution of Early Soviet Art". Through Sept 15 • The Museum of Russian Art, 5500 Stevens Ave. S;, Mpls • Hours are Mon – Fri 10 AM to 5 PM, Sat 10 AM – 4 PM and Sun 1 – 5 PM • Admission is $7/Adults • www.tmora.org

Hennes Art Company presents *"Abstract Expressionism – The AB EX Show".* Through Sept 30 • Gallery Hours Mon – Sat/10 AM – 5 PM • Hennes Art Company, 1607 Hennepin Ave., Mpls • For more info, call 612-436-2077 or visit www.hennesart.com

Brave New Workshop presents *"Obama Mia: or The Real Housewives of Abbottabad"*
Through Oct 1 • Thurs/8 PM/$26, Fri/8 PM/$29, Sat/7PM/$29, Sat/10 PM/$27 • The Brave New Workshop Theatre, 2605 Hennepin Ave. S., Mpls • For tickets, call 612-332-6620 or visit www.bravenewworkshop.com

Renaissance Festival. Weekends through Oct 3 • Shakopee, MN • For more info, visit www.renaissancefest.com

Jungle Theater presents *"Hamlet".* Through Oct 9 • Tickets $10 – $35 • The Jungle Theater, 2951 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls • For more info or tickets, call 612-822-7063 or visit www.jungle-theater.com

"The Ballad of Sexual Dependency". Through Oct 16 • Walker Art Center, 1750 Hennepin Ave., Mpls • For more info, call 612-375-7600 or visit www.walkerart.org

Minnesota Museum of American Arts presents "Our Treasures: Highlights From the Minnesota Museum of American Art". Through Oct 23 (Tweed exhibition), Aug 2011 – July 2012 general • Tweed hours are Tues/9 AM – 8 PM, Wed – Fri/9 AM – 4:30 PM, Sat – Sun/1 – 5 PM • Tweed Museum of Art, Duluth • For more info about exhibition, visit www.d.umn.edu/tma or email Jessari Kuppe at jkuppe@mmaa.org or 651-797-4057 • www.mmaa.org

Movie Night. Every Monday and Tuesday • 9 PM – Close • The Brass Rail, 422 Hennepin Ave., Mpls • www.thebrassraillounge.com

The Center of Light – Guided Mindfulness Meditation. Tuesdays 10 – 10:30 AM • Thursdays 5 – 5:30 PM • Saturdays 7 – 7:30 AM • Center of Light, 2548 Pleasant Ave., Mpls • For more info, call 612-205-5545 or email Minneapolis@centersoflight.org

Male Revue. Every Wednesday – Sunday • 8 PM – 1:30 AM • The Brass Rail, 422 Hennepin Ave., Mpls • www.thebrassraillounge.com

Pumps and Pearls Drag Revue. Every Thursday • Free in the Main Bar • $5 Pitchers MGD & Lite • Free pool & darts • Town House Bar, 1415 University Ave., St. Paul• www.townhousebar.com

Thirsty Thursdays
Every Thursday • $1 Wells & Domestics • Minimal Cover Charge • Gay 90s, 408 S. Hennepin Ave., Mpls • www.gay90s.com

Bar Bingo
Every Friday • 6 PM • Benefits the Aliveness Project • Town House Bar, 1415 University Ave., St. Paul• www.townhousebar.com

Singles Pool Tournament
Every Third Sunday of the Month • 4 PM • 19 Bar, 19 W. 15th St., Mpls • www.19bar.itgo.com

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Wyoming

A COUPLE weeks ago, I visited Wyoming. Yes, *that* Wyoming, the state that every GLBT person should be able to pinpoint on a map with eyes closed. The Wyoming that killed Matthew Shepard. I've been there before, and every time I go, I think about the insipid hatred that left Matthew tied to a fence to die in the cold, just because he was a young gay kid. This time, as I drove from Cheyenne through Laramie (where Matthew attended college) and then west, being passed by cowboy hat-wearing men in pickups, and past mountains with sweeping vistas where you can see for fifty miles, I wondered whether things had changed.

I was in Wyoming for a reunion with my adoptive family, owing to my best friend, someone I've nicknamed, "Thap." We've known each other for more than forty years, since the first day of eighth grade. I was just one of the boys back then, on the football team where Thap played quarterback and I was a front line guard. His family got to know lovable me, and soon I was included in their lives.

The Thap family is one of those old-fashioned white American success stories. Thap's father and uncle grew up on a farm in Iowa. Neither attended college, but both understood that hard work and calculated risk taking could pay off. Both became extremely successful—financially and with their families. This would be remarkable on its own, but the real story here is how this family—maybe 50 people in all—reflects just how America is changing. I'm not big on labeling people, but for this article I will, just to make a point.

We had people from Wyoming, Colorado, Iowa, and Minnesota. As we sat chomping burgers and brats, I counted a married lesbian couple with three kids, one of whom is African American. Thap's sister—one of the lesbians— converted to Islam twenty years ago and changed her name to "Jamila." Now, she's a Unitarian minister. Then there was a white son with an African American wife, and their exceedingly cute and energetic two year old daughter. A second son was married to a beautiful Asian woman, and in a few months, they'll have a baby. One more son was dating another Asian, a woman who reminded me of my own daughters, both Korean adoptees.

And then there was me, Ellen the transgender. Most of these people knew me as a boy, and so there were missed pronouns—"him" instead of "her," "he" in lieu of "she"—but they always kept trying to get it right. I was the first (and I'm sure only) transgender person they have ever known, but they were respectful and inclusive. There wasn't a single odd look or off-sided giggle the entire time I was there. I've even formed a special bond with Thap's 19 year old daughter, who reminded me that a couple years ago, I had given her advice on how to kiss

("make sure you pull on his ear as you lean in for the kiss").

As if I know anything about kissing.

For me, always worrying whether I fit in or questioning if I'm welcome, it was *wonderful*. I owe it all to Thap, who never wavered as I took my crazy gender journey. Imagine watching your best buddy—your teammate, drinking pal, and camping partner—change from boy to girl, and always supporting him—err, her. There were many times I doubted myself, but Thap always believed in the real me, saying, "Hang in there Ellie, you can do it, you'll get there."

The secret to our friendship is pretty simple—we don't judge each other. Instead, we *see* the other person for who they are, and love them for it, regardless of our faults. It sounds so simple, but of course, it's damn difficult. So, as I drove away from the family reunion, back through rural Wyoming and again past Laramie, I thought of Matthew once more. I wondered if Wyoming still deserves the reputation as a place of LGBT intolerance. More importantly, I had some faith and hope that our country, this place called America, finally was becoming a place where everyone is welcome, where "family," isn't defined with the word, "homogenous."

Or another word: "straight." □

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Canning 101

LATE SPRING 2004, I received a letter from the Creative Activities supervisor at the Minnesota State Fair and I'm paraphrasing, "Since you have won 1st place three years in a row for your Vidalia Onion Relish we request that you do not enter it again for at least two years." At first it felt like a small bee sting, then an hour passed and it hurt like a slap, then after gardening and walking to the corner grocery store it hit me. How would I feel if every year I entered my canned or baked goods and the same person took top prize? I would have felt discouraged. From that moment on I considered that letter a badge of honor.

Then, a couple of years later I received another letter explaining that I was banned from all competition at the Minnesota State Fair as I was now a professional. The rules state that cooking must be a hobby or that you be a homemaker. At first that felt like a baseball bat across my head but I soon got over it and, again, wore it like a badge of honor.

Who would have thought canning pickles, relish, jam, and jellies could cause such a ruckus?

Canning and preserving foods has been in my blood since I was a small boy growing up in the Red River Valley of North Dakota. I was fascinated by all the busy work in the kitchen and continually begged my grandma if I could help. Finally, when I was eight years old, she said yes.

My first lesson in preserving food was a trip to a local farmer who sold produce out of a garage. Shelves of fresh produce lined the walls and it smelled earthy and fresh. We were pickling that day so we picked through medium cucumbers. Grandma pointed out blemishes, discoloration, and damage. She explained that we needed the freshest but the best quality vegetables or spoilage could occur resulting in mold or botulism.

One of the other items Grandma mentioned was to shy away from cucumbers at a grocery store as they are usually covered in a fine layer of wax. This prevents the pickling brine from soaking through the skin and seasoning the pickles not to mention the possibility of spoilage.

Back in Grandma's kitchen everything was ready. The canning jars were washed and ready to be sterilized along with new lids and ring bands. "Going Green" wasn't a popular term when I began canning but it was one of the first ways to recycle. Ring bands can be used year from year unless they begin to rust. Lids should never be reused.

Sterilizing is easy by first using warm soapy water to wash your jars. After rinsing, submerge the canning jars in boiling water right in a large stainless steel or enamel water bath canner or stock pot. This only needs to be done for about ten minutes. I also submerge my lids, for about 5 minutes, to soften the rubber bands for better sealing.

One of the most important things I learned at a young age is to not to try and can too many recipes in one day. It can be rough work and canning two recipes may be the limit for an eight hour day. I recently canned my Sweet Cucumber Pickle Relish and Bread and Butter Pickles and it took all afternoon.

If you don't have equipment it's easy to find. My favorite is Frattallone Ace Hardware on Grand Avenue in St. Paul west of Snelling Avenue. I call their store "Canning Central." Everything is set up so you can get everything you need including every size canning jar, canning kits with water bath canner and equipment, plus they offer salsa and pickling kits to make your canning easy as pie.

I have spoken to groups and taught classes about canning. The majority of questions are always about safety. Everyone has heard about botulism, mold, foul smells after opening a jar, and so on. By simply following the guidelines in books such as The Ball Blue Book of Canning and Preserving or visiting the National Center for Home Food Preservation (University of Georgia) at www.uga.edu/nchfp/ you will be successful on your first try as a canner. My advice, read carefully your tried-and-true canning recipe before beginning. Write down a list of what you need to purchase and make sure your produce is fresh and canned within a day or two of purchase.

There is nothing more satisfying then producing your own food. You know what's in the jar, preservatives are not an issue, you're recycling your jars after the first purchase, and you're serving and eating food that was at its freshest when you preserved it. Next, you'll have to start a garden or begin entering county and state fairs but be careful not to go professional too soon. □

Frattallone Ace Hardware
1676 Grand Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55105
Phone: (651) 288-5981
www.frattallones.com
Other canning and preserving websites:
www.freshpreserving.com

John Michael Lerma is a local chef, author, "lifestyle guru" and Food Network personality. His company Garden County Cooking offers cookbooks, cooking classes, consulting, private events, and culinary vacations to Tuscany, Italy. He also teaches food writing at The Loft Literary Center. www.GardenCountyCooking.com







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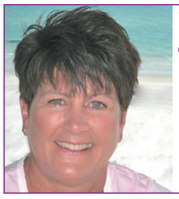
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The Grand Hand Gallery

When I think of the hotbeds of artistic talent, my mind often drifts to either coast or beyond, sailing to Europe or Asia....really, any place but the humble, earthy Midwest. We're a practical people; it's part of the fabric of our being, and art–well, art is inherently impractical. It exists only to be beautiful. It is never useful, never functional. And it definitely should never be used to hold, say, soup. Taking issue with that idea is Grand Hand Gallery owner Ann Ruhr Pifer, whose gallery prominently features Upper Midwestern artists, fine arts and *also* fine crafts. "We try not to get hung up on traditional definitions," she explains. "Even if it's a potter that makes functional things, there's no way you could do that without an aesthetic sense of what you're doing."

While The Grand Hand Gallery does carry paintings, it also devotes much of its space to ceramics, which Pifer feels are the area's specialties. Functional ceramics make wonderful gifts, and they're also a gateway to developing an appreciation, and finding one's own individual taste in art. Pifer begins, "A mug–that's often the first thing that they'll buy, and then they'll say, 'I never realized how different it was to have something handmade. That's the mug that I want my coffee in.'" She continues, "It's really different, and it makes you happy, and it makes your life better to have these beautiful, hand-made things that you can use in your daily life."

As one of the area's only fine craft galleries, it was also important to Pifer to have a broad price range. Certainly there are paintings and ceramics done by nationally and even internationally-renowned artists, and those are priced accordingly. But if you're looking just to spruce up your home on a budget, it's still possible to find something unique to take home, like hand-made glass earrings for $15, or an inlaid wooden bookmark for $7. The Grand Hand Gallery's jewelry artists also have made beautiful commitment rings for GLBT couples, and its selection of both fine arts and fine crafts is constantly changing. Although the gallery does feature the work of some of their core local artists throughout their careers, it also rotates in pieces from artists across the country to keep things fresh and engaging for collectors.

The Grand Hand Gallery is located at 619 Grand Avenue in St. Paul. Local artists who are interested in opportunities with the gallery may submit materials by mail or online to submissions@thegrandhand.com. New artwork is considered twice a year, each March and September. □

Name of Company: The Grand Hand Gallery
Year Founded: 2004
President/CEO: Ann Ruhr Pifer
Number of Employees: 7
Phone and website: 651-312-1122; www.thegrandhand.com







The Party's Over

HEY, OLDER gays: remember those golden days when we were completely disenfranchised? Everyone hated us and you never had to meet your lover's parents because they told their daughter that they'd slit your throat if you ever set foot in their home?

Well, I'm writing this while sitting on a balcony, looking out at the rocky Maine coast, and dreaming of those lovely, bygone, hate-filled times.

You see, friends, I'm in Maine with my girlfriend visiting her family. In the olden days, I'd be left in peaceful seclusion to think my big thoughts (and drink as many cocktails as my liver could handle) as my girlfriend shuttled between the hotel and the family home. But now, thanks to the goddamned sea change in people's attitudes toward the gays, I'm now expected to show up at family functions.

"But don't they know that we sleep together?" I whined yesterday morning, as my girlfriend ordered me off the beach to dress for the first in an interminable series of family get-togethers over the coming days. "Aren't they repulsed by that? Doesn't seeing the two of us together make them picture us having sex and, thus, make them want to murder us?"

"They know we have sex, and they love you anyway," she said. "Get dressed."

And, then, just to drive my vacation deeper into living hell, she added, "My mom and I have discussed our sex life. She's really happy I met someone who likes sex as much as I do."

Yes, friends, it's true. I'm a bit randy and more than adequate at meeting my girlfriend's rather alarming appetites. And while I take a certain pride in this skill set, it's not one I want to be used as a topic to bridge awkward silences between my girlfriend and her mother.

I will spare you the details of the argument that broke out after this revelation. Suffice it to say, she won. And we were soon driving up the coast to see the family.

I love my girlfriend's family. But I loathe obligations. Whenever anyone expects me to do anything, my natural response is to refuse or at least exhibit such artful passive-aggression that I'm allowed to wiggle off the hook.

One of the great things about being gay for the past two decades was the absence of family obligations. You weren't expected at your lover's family events (and, in fact, might be chased away if you did show up) and he/she wasn't expected at yours. Heaven!

But now, thanks to all the straight people twisting themselves in knots to show us how open-minded and accepting they are of the gays, we're treated like full-fledged members of the family. And, as such, we're expected to show up and be miserable with all the other family members who are forced to attend these functions.

As we approached my girlfriend's family home, she sighed. Deeply. And it wasn't for comic effect. She meant it. Someone usually leaves these events in tears and I was just praying it wouldn't be her this time.

"We only have to be here for a couple hours," she said, trying to soothe herself as much as me. "And then we can escape to our real life."

But this is our real life now, gays. Sure we can still fantasize that we're footloose and madcap and that we have the freedom to spend our Thanksgivings and Christmases in exotic locales because we're not welcome at home. But, my friends, those days are long gone. Now we're part of the family. The party's over.

Thanks open-minded, accepting, straight people. Thanks a lot. □

TROLIN, UN DIABLITO ROSA — POR RODRO



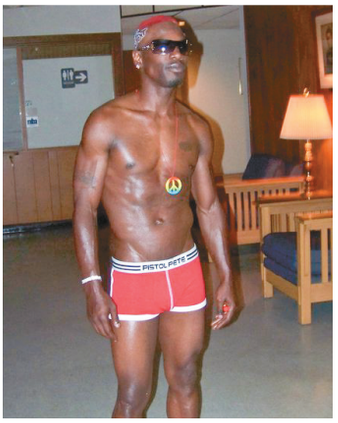
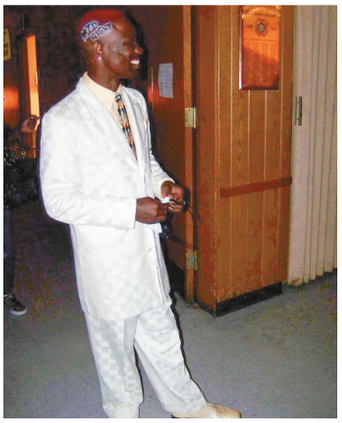
My boyfriend Trolón and I exchange trumpets. He plays mine and I play his. How unfair can life be sometimes!

TWIN CITIES BLACK PRIDE

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Photos by Sophia Hantzes

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Dear Ms. Behavior,

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I hadn't felt it was relevant to tell her about my past because I've repeatedly tested negative for HIV (and all STDs). I'm aware that AIDS is a sensitive issue and have a lot of knowledge pertaining to the disease. I don't believe she does, because of how she reacted.

Should I be judged because I was in a relationship with a woman who was HIV- positive? Can someone say "No" to me regarding sex because of that? Even if I have proof that shows that I'm negative for HIV and STDs? What if this woman could be my soul mate?

--DISAPPOINTED AND HURT, YET TRYING TO UNDERSTAND

Dear Disappointed etc.

No, you shouldn't be judged because you were with a woman who was HIV-positive. But yes, someone can reject you for that or any other reason, and it doesn't have to be correct or rational; that's just how it is with sex and love.

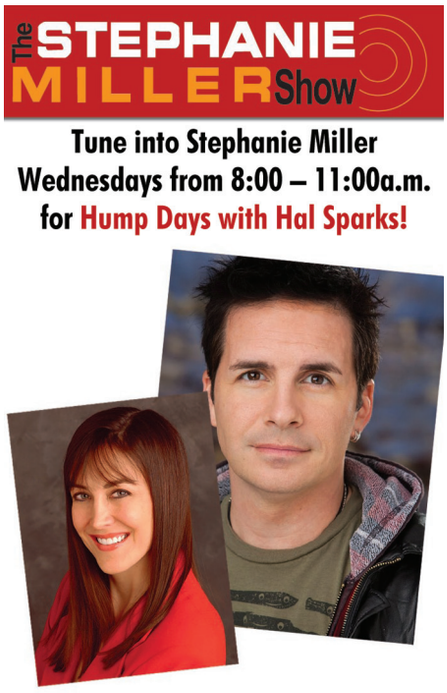
Some people who are phobic about HIV can be educated. But when you're romantically interested in someone, the role of educator is not a fun one. You can state the facts about transmission, but you wouldn't want to feel like you were persuading her to have sex with you.

Remember that an aversion can be very powerful. Some lesbians would not have sex with you because you ate meat back in 1989, had sex with a man some time in your past, or once used a public restroom. Others might feel safe only if you allowed them to boil you first.

When you meet a woman who feels that way, do not try to change her mind. Let the differences between you stand as a symbol for all the ways you're not compatible. Then say goodbye.

As for the soul mate issue, you don't have to worry. (Your soul mate would understand your past relationship.) □





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AUGUST 20










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Kissing, Sneezing & Other Fun Things

THAT SEXY guy you saw jogging around the lake the other day? Nose-picker. The voluptuous blonde in the convertible? Snorts when she laughs. The person reading this magazine before you? Sneezed all over it and put it back on the stand. We're made up of a lot of fun things. Anatomical things. Biological things. Philosophical things. We're made up of a whole bunch of stand-alones that, when mixed together, create this uniquely wonderful thing called a human being. I've always been bad at science–we won't go there–but I'm awful good at noticing little things about someone's personality. Quirks, we call them.

It started in Kindergarten. Our teacher, Mrs. Hart, let her students stand up and give her a kiss on the cheek while she read to us. My classmates were enamored with this practice. They'd make it a contest to see who could kiss her the most. I, on the other hand, found this ritual strange and pointless, but if you wanted to survive Kindergarten, you had to play. I decided to give no more than a couple of kisses during reading time. This would keep me from being an outsider without looking like I was sucking up.

One day, after reading time and just before nap time, I approached Mrs. Hart and asked her: "Mrs. Hart, why does everybody kiss you?" The teacher's assistant, a young college student, giggled in the background. "I can't hear your stories because everyone gets up to kiss you all the time," I said. She didn't tell me why, and the kisses weren't allowed after that day. I was happy the stupid kisses ended, but Mrs. Hart seemed to change after she stopped them. She became less cheerful. I can't be certain my calling her out is what caused Mrs. Hart to stop being so affectionate or chipper, but I look back now and think that her kisses from students were satisfying some kind of quirk. Some kind of unconscious reminder that she was loved, if only by a handful of 5 year-olds.

Needless to say, I still feel kinda guilty. Quirks are, well, quirky. They become our trademarks, our "Isn't he the manliest guy ever? Just look at how rugged those hands are!" And they become our obstacles, our "OK, manly's good, but wash under your damn fingernails." Too easily quirks become annoyances. Deal-breakers, even. So you like that you wash his clothes because he leaves dirty laundry out all the time. You clean her house because she's messy. You even think it's cute that he plays video games all the time. Your very own nerd. Until the honeymoon ends.

Suddenly our fascinating originality builds resentment in the person you love. To the point of compromise? Or to the point of no return? This in itself is a quirk we share: the innate ability to love someone one minute for being exactly who they are, and becoming irate the next–without anything having changed. For me, this happens all too frequently. Which is why I'm single. I'm at once head-over-heels for him, smitten with every part of who he is; then, it becomes too clear that we just won't do. Leaving the toothpaste cap off the tube so it leaks everywhere? Clearly, an insurmountable charge unworthy of compromise, such a cardinal sin it is. Some things never change, I suppose.

Since Mrs. Hart, one of my great flaws is turning what makes someone unique into something that should be corrected. And in this way, I fall for people not as they are, but how I want them to be. A fatal blow to romantic happiness if ever there was one. (Thankfully, I approach friends differently. Their quirks cause me endless happiness.) I think I've come up with a remedy, though. I've tested it and it's fool-proof: When you feel annoyed with the people you love, take a long, loving look in the mirror and say to yourself, "Look at what THEY have to put up with." Nine times out of ten, if you're having to actually perform this exercise, their quirks don't seem so bad after all. Now go wash your damn hands! Someone sneezed on this momma! Keep in touch! □

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